

Hafa Adai!

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Take 2: House OKs salary bill

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI House of Representatives passed yesterday a new measure to set the salary level of members of the Legislature.

Atalig girlfriend pleads not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig's girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, pleaded not guilty yesterday in federal court to a superseding indictment that charged them with making CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan using false pretenses.

At an initial appearance/arraignment hearing, Evelyn Atalig, through her court-appointed counsel, Steven P. Pixley, pleaded not guilty to four charges: conspiracy, wire fraud, theft from program receiving federal funds, and one count of false statements.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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This was the second time that the House acted on such a measure after then acting governor Victor B. Hocog vetoed last week a similar bill that

had been passed by both chambers in November. The new measure, House Bill 20-195, now goes to the Senate. Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero

(R-Saipan) re-introduced H.B. 20-195, setting the annual salary of lawmakers at \$32,000—the amount that Hocog is amenable to.

The previous version of the bill, H.B. 20-194, would have given legislators the same compensation of \$32,000.

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WEEKEND CONCERT

U.S. Army soldiers with the 721st Guam Army National Guard B and the musicians with the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band prepare to perform a musical number for the audience at the American Memorial Park amphitheater on Saipan last Dec. 9, 2018. The concert was held as a way of saying "thank you" to the community for their support to the military during Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts.

STAFF SGT. KENNEDY BENJAMIN

Hopwood-MHS campus sharing seen until Jan.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Campus sharing between the Marianas High School and Hopwood Middle School is expected to last until January 2019, according to both schools' principals.

While a specific date is still un-

confirmed, MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera and Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag both told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday in separate interviews that they expect the campus sharing between the two schools to continue until early 2019.

Liwag, who spoke with *Saipan Tribune*, said the sharing will continue until early 2019.

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Skymark asks CPA for office space

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Japanese low-cost carrier Skymark Airlines Inc. has asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority for an office space at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

It was learned at a joint CPA

board's airport, finance, seaport, and personnel committees' meeting at the Port of Saipan yesterday that Skymark has already made the request to lease space at the Saipan airport as it prepares to launch flights between Japan and Saipan.

All six board members at yesterday's meeting were present.

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Local

Tetris deadline extended; residents urged to clear debris

"[The Federal Emergency Management Agency] will be here, has been here prior to the storm, and will continue to be here—during not only the repair and restoration time phases but also during and helping with the long-term recovery phase."

Thus assured FEMA Regional Administrator for Region IX, Robert Fenton, who visited Saipan and Tinian earlier this week.

Fenton, who has been with FEMA since 1996, was appointed as Region IX Regional Administrator in July 2015 and has been involved in recovery efforts post-Paka, Pongsana, Chataan, Soudelor and now, Yutu.

During his visit, Fenton toured the newly designated emergency shelter facility in Kagman, the Marpi landfill, and the Saipan Mayor's Office along with the CNMI governor's authorized representative Virginia Villagomez, deputy regional administrator (Region IX) William Roche, federal coordinating officer Benigno Ruiz, and several of the CNMI's leadership.

Progress on debris collection and review of the island's debris reduction plans with Saipan Mayor David Apatang and the touring of federal facilities used to stage resources and distribution for the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility were some of the covered discussions during his tour.

"We [FEMA] have people who are committed to service and who are from all over the country to provide a 110 percent effort to the CNMI. It's a mission that we like to do, and we are glad to be here fulfilling this mission," Fenton said.

TETRIS deadline extended

The CNMI government has extended the deadline to submit a right of entry form for TETRIS consideration from Dec. 8 to Dec. 15.

Villagomez said this is intended to service the traffic and number of residential walk-ins.

"We encourage every impacted resident on Saipan to take advantage of this unique program," said Villagomez.

The CNMI government, in coordination with FEMA, the U.S. Department of Defense, and American Red Cross, introduced the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support, or TETRIS program on Nov. 5.

TETRIS was designed to offer assistance to residents of Saipan and Tinian who expe-



Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Administrator for Region IX Robert Fenton is joined by FEMA and local officials in a tour of the Marpi landfill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

rienced extensive damage to their homes as a result of Yutu.

In preparation of Public School System campuses opening their doors last week and this week, those managing the TETRIS operation focused on providing tents and temporary roofs for displaced families in shelters. Acceptance of the TETRIS applications was extended another week to service and focus displaced residents who did not seek shelter in one of the government shelters.

Although TETRIS is a program implemented by the CNMI government, funding is provided by FEMA and is coordinated by Department of Defense partners. CNMI and DOD provide installations; however, the CNMI is the sole entity determining who receives tents.

To apply for the program, residents must complete a right of entry form which may be obtained by visiting the Koblerville Fire Station or the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Applying for Individual Assistance through FEMA and applying for the TETRIS program are two separate processes and require two separate applications.

The TETRIS program on Tinian has ended, and residents who needed assistance through the program has been completed.

A total of 202 tents were erected on Tinian.

As of Dec. 9, the CNMI government and DOD have installed a total of 1,344 tents and have repaired 93 roofs on

Saipan. These numbers are expected to increase as more displaced residents in shelters are expected to avail of the TETRIS program.

For questions regarding the TETRIS program on Saipan, call the Koblerville Fire Station as (670) 664-9083.

Again, the deadline to submit an ROE has been extended to Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018.

Power, water restoration

At 9:45am, Friday morning, the Maui well on Tinian was energized, bringing 95 percent of Tinian's critical infrastructure onto the island's power grid.

The Tinian International Airport remains offline while CUC crews revert focus to getting homes on grid power while making their way to the Tinian International Airport.

An additional 65 utility poles arrived on Saipan earlier this week, some of which were transported to Tinian, from San Bernardino, Calif.

CUC's efforts to restore power on Saipan continues to prioritize primary lines in preparation to energize areas inward.

Water production on Saipan is 95 percent online, 100 percent on Tinian.

Shelter and transportation

Consolidation of several shelters into one main facility was completed earlier this week. All displaced families were transitioned from their previous shelter into the new emergency shelter facility in Kagman.

The CNMI government also

continues to assist shelterees requiring medical equipment who previously sought shelter at the Aging and HOPE Centers. The consolidation was done to better focus on needs of the shelterees by centralizing resources.

Feeding of shelterees is now being fully provided by the CNMI government. Disaster assistance, including assisting these families with the TETRIS program registration, is ongoing and will continue until each family has been provided assistance.

COTA also continues to provide transportation for families in the shelter to go to and from medical appointments and for a small fee, also offer transportation to visit their damaged homes.

A number of temporary emergency evacuation shelters first opened their doors on Oct. 24 in response to Super Typhoon Yutu. At the peak of shelter operations, a total of 15 shelters were opened, housing nearly 1,100 displaced residents who were unable to return and safely live in their current residence due to major storm damage.

The Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility officially opened its doors on Dec. 3 in efforts to house and consolidate the existing shelterees from Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, the HOPE Recovery Center, and the Office of Aging.

Various agencies and non-profit organizations played key roles in identifying needs

and maintaining overall safety, comfort and care for displaced residents since the opening of the evacuation shelters.

A special thanks to the CNMI government, PSS, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, COTA, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Hope Recovery Center, FEMA, Red Cross, the Maturana House of Prayer, and all organizations who contributed to the overall sheltering efforts.

As of Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018, the KESF's population was 156. The KESF population is expected to steadily decrease as shelterees return home.

In the meantime, the CNMI government and FEMA continue to collaborate in assisting impacted residents by providing more long-term housing solutions.

Public feeding, relief efforts

The American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, MyPros, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, DOD, and the CNMI government have helped tremendously in feeding not only the shelter population, but with public feeding as well.

Samaritan's Purse, Karidat, The Lady Dianne Foundation and various church and non-profit organizations, including private sector partners such as TanHoldings Corp., Bridge Capital LLC, Joeten, IT&E, Docomo, and Matson, have also pitched in to assist with relief efforts.

Many private companies such as Bank of Guam and

some autonomous agencies like the Commonwealth Ports Authority have disbursed or plan to disburse cash relief to their employees.

Debris removal

Debris removal is ongoing and the CNMI government, specifically the Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, FEMA, and DOD partners are working to clear debris from Saipan and Tinian. More trucks and equipment have been transported to Saipan to assist with this.

Residents must remove debris before the end of December. This program will not last forever and requires full cooperation of residents in order to complete this mission.

Debris not separated accordingly will not be picked up and will then become the responsibility of each resident to remove debris at their own cost. If regular day-to-day household trash is intermingled with lumber, tin and green waste piles, debris crews will not pick up waste; therefore, the CNMI government is urging residents who currently have household trash mixed-in with debris piles, to remove them from properly sorted piles, and to dispose them by bringing household garbage to the As Gonno or Marpi landfill sites.

1. Green Waste (trees, shrubs, plants, grass, etc.)
2. Tin (roofing metal, metal sheets, etc.)
3. Lumber (plywood, 2x2s, 2x4s, etc.)
4. Household waste (mattresses, furniture damaged by Yutu, does not include daily household trash)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality have also announced the roll-out of the White Goods, Electronics, and Household hazardous materials curbside pickup program.

1. White goods (refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.)
2. Electronics (television sets, computers, PC units, etc.)
3. Household hazardous waste (paints, solvents, pesticides and other chemicals)

Last round of debris pick-up is slated for December 17th on Saipan.

Leaning forward

Schools will continue to operate in double sessions for some campuses, but in the meantime, the CNMI government along with FEMA and PSS will be building temporary schools to alleviate the

See TETRIS on Page 4

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres join Delegate Aumua Amata Radewagen of American Samoa, left, and Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo of Guam, right, at the state funeral.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Torres represents CNMI at Bush state funeral in DC

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres was in Washington, D.C. over the course of last week on an invitation to attend the state funeral for former President George H.W. Bush, who passed away on Nov. 30, 2018.

The CNMI flag was flown at the state funeral at the Washington National Cathedral, together with the 17 other states and territories in attendance.

"A very solemn memorial tribute for a great statesman who led our nation through the end of the Cold War with humility and dignity," Torres said. He was accompanied at the state funeral by first lady Diann Torres.

Bush was later buried on Dec. 7 in Texas.

Bush visited Saipan in 1985 when he was Vice President. He toured World War II sites and met with CNMI leaders, including then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio. Bush, the 41st President of the United States, was a former WWII naval aviator in the Pacific.

After the state funeral ceremony, Torres visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters, where he met with FEMA administrator Brock Long to discuss the ongoing recovery efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Administrator Long has been such a critical partner for us since before the storm and has assured me and the CNMI that FEMA and our federal partners will do everything they can to help us on our road to recovery. I thank them and the entire FEMA and federal family on island and from around the country for being

away from home and helping us during our time of need," Torres said.

Later that same day, Torres met with officials at the Department of the Interior, including Secretary Ryan Zinke and Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech. Zinke and Domenech visited Saipan and Tinian in September, when he met with the governor and his executive team, as well as members of the Legislature and private sector leaders.

"[Zinke, Domenech, and] Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula have been true partners for the CNMI, and they strongly supported our recovery with \$1.6 million in OIA technical assistance and CIP funding. We're working on more federal assistance in the near future," Torres said.

From Washington, D.C., the governor flies to Hawaii, where he has scheduled meetings for the Western Governors Association and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. At the WGA Winter Meeting, Torres will join the Western Governors in roundtable discussions on renewable energy, the outdoor recreation economy, healthcare, veterans' issues and the Western Governors' Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative. They will also meet with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on farming issues, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie on veterans' issues, and U.S. Small Business Administration administrator Linda McMahon on disaster assistance and workforce development. (PR)

Join annual Christmas Bird Count

This holiday season, bird-watchers and nature lovers have an opportunity to learn more about birds in the CNMI, and help scientists trying to conserve them. This event is free and open to the public.

On Friday, Dec. 14, 2018, experienced and novice birders alike are invited to participate in Saipan's Annual Christmas Bird Count.

Started in 1900 by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count is the world's longest-running citizen science project. Last year, over 73,000 volunteers counted over 56 million birds of 2,636 species across North America, the Pacific



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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD ➤ IT&E

Most Head Start double sessions start today

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinare@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Majority of Head Start and Early Head Start are scheduled to resume classes today.

"The majority of Head Start [double session] classes start [today]," Public School System Early Head Start and Head Start program director Lathania Santos told *Saipan*

Domino's donates \$5K to CNMI typhoon relief

Domino's Pizza Guam has presented a \$5,000 check to the Ayuda Foundation for use in the foundation's ongoing relief drive for the vic-

Tribune yesterday.

According to Santos, double sessions for the Chalan Kanoa Head Start center rooms B and C, Dandan Head Start, San Antonio Head Start, and Oleai Head Start centers would start their double sessions today.

Half-day sessions for Chalan Kanoa Head Start classes for rooms A and D started yesterday from 7:30am to

11:30am, while double sessions for the Kagman Head Start and Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start room C proceeded with their double sessions yesterday, along with half-day sessions for Chalan Kanoa Headstart classes for rooms A and D.

Only JMR rooms A and B along with Tanapag Head Start rooms A and B resumed

full day sessions yesterday.

Early Head Start full-day sessions for Chalan Kanoa, Tanapag, Kagman, and Dandan continued yesterday as well.

"We are excited to have our kids back," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that she believes families are equally excited to have their children back in school since Super Typhoon Yutu in late October.

"...At some point we need to get back to normalcy," she said. "It was a successful first day for classes that [resumed] today."

Santos explained that the Head Start and early Head

Start centers did not open last Dec. 3, due to logistical issues. She noted that simple necessities for the comfort of the students were not readily available last week, so it was decided to put off opening the classes until yesterday, when stable water, power, and shelter was assured.

"Hopefully everything goes back to normal when we move to our temporary classroom facilities in Koblerville," Liwag said, without specifying the exact area in the village.

With campus sharing expected to last at least until next year, Cabrera noted that the cooperation between MHS and Hopwood staff is present, despite minor logistical problems.

"...I [believe] the transition went smoothly. When our students came, they were excited to be on campus and we were excited to see them," she said, adding that today also highlighted the opening of the new MHS cafeteria.

Cabrera noted that sharing the campus with Hopwood went "smoothly" despite some electrical and maintenance problems. She noted that the issues were resolved with the coordination of Hopwood staffing.

"...We worked through it. We are a good team. So far it has been good. We were able to share resources and even able to share our staff in getting things done," she said.

HOPWOOD

From Page 1

bune just after Super Typhoon Yutu, noted that almost all, if not every, building in their Aftenas campus were damaged.

"I am hoping that we could share campuses until the end of January 2019 and, by the third quarter, we would hopefully be moving into our new temporary facility to have full-day classes," Liwag said. Cabrera noted a similar timeline in a separate interview.

"The campus-sharing with Hopwood for sure would be until January 2019," she said. "I believe the expected timeline is [sometime in] January 2019," adding that she is not aware of a specific date ending the campus sharing.

Over 900 Hopwood students are currently using the MHS campus in the morning for their half-day double sessions, while the 1,550 students of MHS use the campus for their double-session classes in the afternoon.

TETRIS

From Page 2

population in combined campuses. Simultaneously, the CNMI government, in partnership with FEMA, plans on leveraging mitigation funds and are ready to devise strategies to construct not just more infrastructurally-sound school buildings, but technologically advanced ones as well.

Post-Soudelor, CUC received mitigation funds to harden Saipan's power and water systems. A total of 97 percent of utility poles funded under those mitigation funds withstood Yutu. Both CNMI and FEMA wish to build an even more sound infrastructure, one that will not discontinue water services into homes after disasters. And one that will sustain even stronger winds for future disasters.

This forward-thinking in terms of hardening the CNMI's critical infrastructure also includes the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Once recovery efforts are closer to completion, the CNMI government also plans on looking into what the government and the Commonwealth Ports Authority can do to harden what supports the biggest money-making industry in the CNMI, tourism.

Challenges ahead

Our biggest challenge with resiliency is how far the CNMI is from the continental U.S. and how this poses a logistical challenge. Because of that, most of the CNMI's projects and supply, including navigational aids needed to bring the airport back to life post-Yutu, were hindered.

However, the current administration is determined to improve on hardening the CNMI's critical infrastructure across the board.

Message of appreciation

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thanks the entire CNMI for their patience as we all recover from Yutu. "It is important to address the community and how each and every one of you should be commended for remaining patient throughout this recovery. We will keep trucking forward with plans to always improve and increase resiliency in our islands. On behalf of the CNMI government, our first responders and our FEMA counterparts, DOD partners and multiple non-governmental organizations, we thank you all for keeping your spirits high."

"One team. One fight. One Marianas. *Si yu's ma'ase* and *gilosow* for believing in the process and supporting our progress." (PR)

SALARY

From Page 1

\$39,300 as per the recommendation of the Salary Advisory Commission instead of the \$70,000 set in Public Law 19-83.

The CNMI Supreme Court, in *Manibusan v. Larson*, had ruled last August that P.L. 19-83 was unconstitutional as it violates Article 2 Section 10 of the CNMI Constitution. That law gave members of the Legislature an 80-percent salary increase.

The compensation of lawmakers needs to be settled before the Jan. 14 inauguration. Otherwise, the incoming members of the 21st Legislature would receive an annual salary of \$8,000. That amount was the original annual compensation of the first CNMI Legislature.

All seven House members that voted yesterday unanimously approved the new legislation. Ten other lawmakers—who will be part of the 21st Legislature—recused themselves due to conflict of interest.

House legal counsel John Cool cited Article II Section

15 that states that current members of the Legislature that has financial or personal interest in a bill may not debate or vote on the legislation.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), floor leader Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota), and Reps. Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan), Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian), Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan) were the only ones allowed to vote.

Ten members recused themselves as they will be returning to the 21st Legislature after winning in last month's election, with Rep. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) clinching one of the two Saipan Senate seats. Vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), and Reps. Donald C. Barcina (R-Saipan) and Alice S. Igot (R-Saipan) were excused for personal reasons.

Aldan chose to run for the Tinian mayoralty post and won, while Speaker Demapan, floor leader Maratita, Aguon, and Sablan lost their respective re-election bids. Demapan was unsuccessful in unseating Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.

Sablan (Ind-MP), while Deleon Guerrero failed in his bid to claim one of the two Senate seats at stake for the Third Senatorial District.

Minority leader Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), along with Reps. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), and Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) recused themselves.

Not the recommendation
Hocog earlier said that H.B. 20-194 did not follow the recommendation of the Supreme Court regarding the salary increases for members of the Legislature, hence his decision to veto it last week. He vetoed the bill when he was the acting governor.

"Well, I made that hard decision after two meetings with the [CNMI] Attorney General. The AG...was very strong in saying that we need to comply with the Supreme Court's recommendation."

Hocog believes the current

members of the Legislature still have time to pass the bill. "They [20th Legislature] have up to Jan. 14 to do that."

'Enough time'

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), in a separate interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said that are ready to act on it and they still have more than a month before the Jan. 14 inauguration. "There's still a lot of time...to act on it."

"The number is between \$32,000 and \$47,000, and obviously the AG and acting governor are saying that we should stick with \$32,000 to be on the safe side. The legislation needs to be re-introduced at the House. The law must originate from them."

"The Senate is ready to act on any legislation to fix the salaries. Otherwise the folks in the [21st] Legislature next year will get \$8,000. I don't think that's a reasonable salary since that is below minimum wage. So, we will be waiting whatever action comes from the House and we would probably have a session before New Year," said Palacios, who won as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' running mate in the last election.

Eric O'Malley agreed that Evelyn Atalig does not pose a flight risk.

Pixley declined to comment to the media about the case.

Mayor Efraim Atalig was arraigned last Thursday. He pleaded not guilty to the same four charges.

she has to comply with include no contact with witnesses, not to leave the CNMI without the court's permission, and return to court hearings, among others.

Evelyn Atalig was not required to surrender her passport though.

Assistant U.S. attorney

office space for them," Toves added.

The CNMI government and Skymark sealed their partnership last week after representatives of both parties signed a joint promotional deal that would re-open direct flights between Japan and Saipan.

Skymark's inaugural flight to Saipan is set in the first quarter of 2019.

Skymark is Japan's third largest carrier and the first low-cost carrier in Japan.

ATALIG

From Page 1

set Evelyn Atalig's jury trial on Jan. 15, 2019.

That is the same schedule of the jury trial of Mayor Efraim M. Atalig.

SKYMARK

From Page 1

day's meeting agreed to place Skymark's request on the agenda for action at a board meeting on Dec. 17.

According to the proposed lease agreement, Skymark will lease 1,226 square feet of floor area on the mezzanine floor of the airport's terminal building for a monthly rent of \$1,826.

Airport facilities committee chair Barrie C. Toves said the office space was previously occupied by United Airlines. If Skymark is going to start operations in the CNMI, there is an airline user agreement that they need to execute with CPA that involves the flight operations itself, Toves said.

"The office space is a separate issue. It's a lease agreement for them to have an office so they can operate," said Toves in a later interview.

Skymark is being touted as a means to reconnect the CNMI to the Japanese market.

"We're happy that Skymark opted to be linked to the CNMI," Toves said. He said when Delta Airlines pulled out their route from Japan, CNMI lost its connection to the Japan market.

Skymark is seen to fill that void of bringing Japanese tourists to the CNMI. "This is the beginning of their process to establish here, so we got the

FEMA looks to harden CNMI infrastructure

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is looking at all available options to help the CNMI harden its critical infrastructure, including schools, to avoid another disruption of classes after a typhoon.

Most of the schools in the southern side of Saipan were heavily damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, with Hopwood Middle School among those that need extensive repairs, disrupting class schedules for more than a month. Schools only resumed classes last Dec. 3 and yesterday.

The other schools that also need extensive repairs are the Dandan Middle School, Da'ok Academy, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Select schools—Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, Da'ok Academy, Kagman High School, and Chacha Oceanvie Middle School—will have full-day class sessions, while Oleai Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School will have double sessions: morning and afternoon classes.

FEMA Region IX administrator Robert "Bob" Fenton Jr., who was on island last week to check on the recovery efforts' progress, told *Saipan Tribune* that various federal agencies are working with their local counterparts right now to get the islands back to its normal state.

"We're prioritizing in getting the power back to 100 percent on the islands, including 24-hour water distribution.

Bench trial set for Banes

A bench trial has been set for lawyer David George Banes, who is facing a traffic case after being cited by a police officer for reckless driving along Dandan Road.

In a status conference last Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho ordered Banes to show up for a bench trial on Jan. 28, 2019, at 9am.

At the status conference, Banes appeared *pro se*, on behalf of himself. Chief prosecutor Michele Harris represented the government.

Reckless driving is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or six months imprisonment or both.

Police officer L. Lizama is-



STAFF SGT. JAMES KENNEDY BENJAMIN
U.S. Army Soldiers with the 797th Engineer Company (Vertical), 9th Mission Support Command, currently assigned to Joint Task Group-Saipan, Task Force-West, work together to build a roof for a Kgman resident last Dec. 6, 2018.

We're also helping in the reconstruction of houses that lost their roofing while also giving out rental and other monetary assistance to the people who need it most," he said.

"We're also working on providing a central location for those who still need to stay in a shelter since [classes] are now back on Saipan. We're working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in providing tents."

He sees a long-term recovery effort to rebuild destroyed homes and other structures on Saipan and Tinian. "We need to...harden the structures...to build and prepare for future typhoons."

"We won't just build and repair hastily....FEMA will be working to get extra funds...to harden all critical infrastructures so there won't be any interruptions in the future."

Disposal of hazardous wastes and other typhoon-related debris is still being done with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to avoid health risks to the public and the environment.

Household debris like broken electrical appliances will be shipped off-island through a barge while wood and other green wastes can be burned. Tin roofing would be recycled. Fenton is encouraging the public to recycle materials to avoid overfilling the landfill.


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Awaodori members collect over 550 lbs of trash

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Saipan Awaodori collected over 550 lbs of trash during their monthly cleanup of Garapan last Saturday morning.

The cleanup, according to PDM Promoters Inc. coordinator Sonia Siwa, collected 580 lbs of trash from the Paseo de Marianas area in just two hours.

A total of 26 members of the Saipan Awaodori team, along with eight Kinpachi Restau-

rant staff, picked up trash at the Paseo de Marianas area, and along alleys between Coral Tree Avenue, Beach Road, and American Memorial Park.

According to Siwa, the cleanup last Saturday would be the last for the year. Their group has been conducting cleanups every month. The group also joined the International Coastal Cleanup, along with several other business entities all across the CNMI, last Sept. 15, 2018.

"We appreciate the help and monetary support of our two

major sponsors: T-Galleria Saipan and the TSL Foundation, as well as [the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality] and the Department of Public Works Division of Solid Waste Management for waiving the fee for trash disposal," she said.

A total of 26 members of the Saipan Awaodori team, along with eight Kinpachi Restaurant staff, picked up trash at the Paseo de Marianas area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BOG's Chalan Piao branch reopens

The Bank of Guam has reopened its Chalan Piao branch with the same hours as its Garapan branch: Monday through Thursday: 9am-4pm; Friday: 9am-5pm; Saturday: 9am-1pm. (PR)

Public comment period continues for draft INRMP, environmental assessment

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas reminds the community of the 30-day public comment period concluding Dec. 13, for the draft 2018 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and environmental assessment.

In keeping with its environmental stewardship, the Navy is updating the current 2013 INRMP to ensure that the military in the region continues to meet its vital mission, while managing, protecting and enhancing the health of our natural resources and ecosystem.

The new 2018 INRMP proposes to continue some existing projects from the 2013 document and introduces new projects appropriate for managing natural resources in evolving environmental conditions and challenges.

Those interested in learning about the Navy's plans to protect and safeguard natural resources in Guam and the CNMI are encouraged to visit the website at www.jrminrmp.com and download a copy of the document, or view a hard copy at the Nieves Flores Memorial Library in Hagatna and the Dededo Library.

Public comments should be submitted no later than Dec. 13 by email at: w-gunavfac-ev2-gs@fe.navy.mil or by mail.

Kumisión to host second CHamoru orthography training

HAGĀTÑA, Guam—I Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nā'guen i His-

toria yan Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno' (The Commission on the CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) announces the Second Training Session on CHamoru language and the adopted Guam CHamoru Orthography. The training will be held at the Westin Resort Guam on Dec. 12, from 8am to 5pm. All participants who were registered and attended the first session on Sept. 28, 2018, are reminded to return for this second session.

The third and final session will be scheduled in January 2019. Attendance at this second training in CHamoru orthography, grammar, and translation processes is a requirement for the certificate of completion as a CHamoru Language Liaison.

Participants are urged to bring their laptop computers, their Guam CHamoru Orthography booklets, and their office samples of signage, short

phrases or simple directions to be completed at this session. Participants are urged to email the Kumisión at kumision-chamoru@gmail.com for any questions. (PR)

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 12, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in the island of Farallon de Medinilla, Warning Area 12, and Warning Area 517 on Dec. 10, 12, and 13, from 10am to 3pm.

Training will also be conducted at W-517 on Dec. 14-15, from 9am to 2pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training in Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

W-12 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest

in international waters.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. The Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. (PR)

Guam CHamoru commission meeting set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nā'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its December monthly meeting on Dec. 13, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3pm. The meet-

ing will take place at the Garden House (former Guam Museum) in the Plaza de Espana, Hagåtña. For more information, contact Kumisión chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritaria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

MVA meeting on Dec. 14

The Marianas Visitors Authority's semi-annual general membership meeting will be on Dec. 14, at 10am at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Guest speakers from the MVA's offshore offices will provide a recap of fiscal year 2018 projects and the MVA's marketing plans for fiscal year 2019, including post-tsunami recovery plans. Admission is \$20 for MVA members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP by emailing MVA Community Projects Division at community.projects@mymarianas.com or calling 664-3210. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADDENDUM NO. 2 RFP19-ZB-001

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE ZONING BOARD OFFICE"

December 10, 2018

Due to non-submission of proposals for RFP19-ZB-001, Office Space Rental for the Zoning Board Office, the Chairman of the Commonwealth Zoning Board is extending the RFP submission date for another week.

Therefore, this addendum is issued to **EXTEND** the proposal opening from **December 05, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. local time , to December 21, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. local time.**

The lessor must comply with Public Law 15-23, Article 5, section 8652 (A-D).

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMICAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks, and contingent fees shall apply.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **DIEGO C. BLANCO**
ZONING BOARD CHAIRMAN

/S/ **JOSEPH A. TUDELA**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Zoning Board JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Zoning Office is seeking a qualified applicant for the following position. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

- Zoning Enforcement Tech (1)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Conduct field surveys; Collect land use information; Prepare and serve notices of violation and other compliance documents; Write follow-up enforcement notices; Maintain enforcement database and files; Prepare enforcement reports; Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

A minimum of 2 years background in the following:

Any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health & safety, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; and ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary will start at \$25,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to the Zoning Enforcement Chief. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be picked up from the Zoning Office or the Office of Personnel Management. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please send submittals to: E-mail: Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp or to the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Monday, December 17, 2018 at 4:30pm.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP19-OPD-029

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 07, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"EMAIL, STORAGE, AND WEBSITE SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT(OPD)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO.1301, CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO ERIN DERRINGTON BY EMAIL TO erind.opd@gmail.com, NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, DECEMBER 27, 2018.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMICAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.:ITB19-DCCA/DYS-028

SUBMISSION DATE : JANUARY 07, 2018 • TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE(1) FIVE-DOOR MINI VAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO.1301, CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMICAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

EPA 'story map' with response activity data now online

The status of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response actions in the CNMI following Super Typhoon Yutu are now available online at www.epa.gov/typhoonyuturesponse.

This "story map" includes EPA actions as well as maps and photos.

EPA continues to assess and remove oil and hazardous waste on Saipan and Tinian to reduce risks to public health and the environment.

In addition, CNMI agencies are conducting curbside pickup of hazardous materials from residential properties, and public dropoff locations also continue to be open for items such as paints, solvents, herbicides, e-waste, appliances and other goods.

EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Mike Stoker will visit Saipan later this week to meet with local officials and tour typhoon response operations.

Along with EPA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, other disaster response agencies working with EPA include the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Mayor's Offices of Saipan and Tinian.

EPA's activities include collecting, testing, shipping and disposing of hazardous materials such as damaged electric transformers, household hazardous waste, electronic waste (e-waste) and white goods such as refrigerators and air conditioners.

In addition, EPA is helping local agencies sample drinking water and providing technical assistance for wastewater operations and water supply restoration.

Curbside pickup

The pickup of household hazardous waste (paint, solvents, pesticides, other chemicals), appliances and electronics will continue on Saipan.

Place your items curbside and keep separate from green waste, tin, and construction materials.

The last day to put materials out for pickup on Saipan is Dec. 24.

Items will be picked up by village, with crews coming to each area starting from the south and ending in the north, repeating these pickups for a total of three sweeps of the island.

Curbside collection has been completed on Tinian.

Drop-off locations on Saipan is at the Lower Base Transfer Station, from now un-

til Jan. 15, 7:30am to 4:50pm, seven days a week; and at the As Gonno staging area (Kobler airfield, near Tottenville), from now until Jan. 15, 8:30am to 4pm, seven days a week.

For more information on

household hazardous waste, electronic waste or white goods disposal, contact the CNMI BECQ at 664-8500.

Status of EPA actions

EPA is working with CUC

on transformer collection. To date, 640 transformers have been collected on Saipan and 171 on Tinian. EPA is collecting and removing household hazardous waste such as paints, cleaners, solvents, oils,

batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and e-waste, and has so far collected a total of 8,535 items and 8,627 items from facilities such as schools and public buildings on Saipan and Tinian. (PR)



RESCUE MISSION

Samaritan's Purse, which has its own DC-8 cargo plane, loads the cages of Tasha Joy the tiger and Lambert the lion, the two big cats left the island last Wednesday evening.

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-032

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-032, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than January 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 14, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabral@cucgov.org; CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



This time, I am happy to make an announcement that a Charity Casino will be held in Rota Island on May 2019.

As you know, the charity casino aimed to contribute to the local community. Therefore, if we can contribute to the community, it would be our greatest pleasure.

Unfortunately, for the past years, all my time has been devoted to take care of my projects in Japan. I am happy to be back in CNMI since my last trip. I consider Rota as my second home. I will try to be back here in CNMI as frequent as possible.

I am hoping that by next year, the Charity Casino will help bring in more Japanese tourists thus contribute to the local community.

For the past years, I have been involved with Man'amko organization. I wish to continue my good relationship with them.

I have been in discussion with my associates regarding a plan to set up a new airline company in Saipan. This airline will make a regular direct flight from Japan to Saipan, Tinian and Rota. I am confident that this will be a great help for the CNMI tourism industry.

Lastly, I truly honor the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and wish for significant development and economic growth.

I understand how important the tourism industry is to the CNMI and I am trying my best to figure out how I can help to regain the lost Japanese tourists. I promised to make my utmost effort and cooperation to be able to do that.

From: MASAHIRO WATANABE



Back to School



Students throw around a football at the Marianas High School parking lot before classes start.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, far right, speaks with some of the students and parents at Marianas High School.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Students make their way to their new room assignments at Marianas High School.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Students make their way to classrooms for the second period.



ERWIN ENCINARES

#MarianasSTRONG yearend event on Dec. 29

In lieu of its annual Christmas in the Marianas event, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its tourism partners will celebrate the #Marianas STRONG Yearend Celebration on Dec. 29 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The event will mark the resiliency and recovery of the Marianas following Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

The annual Mochitsuki Festival, featuring the Japanese traditional pounding of rice in preparation for the new year, will highlight the event. Other festivities from 5pm to 1pm will include live entertainment, food sales, games, and more.

"We are extremely grateful to our partners at PDM Promoters, Japanese Society of

the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Japanese Northern Marianas Descent Association for again dedicating their time and resources to organize this year's Mochitsuki Festival on the final Saturday in December," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We have all faced many challenges in recovering from Yutu, but through it all, our community has exemplified the giving and the hope that Christmas and the New Year is all about. We warmly invite the community to celebrate our #MarianasSTRONG spirit and the holidays with us on Dec. 29."

Activities will include food and drink sales and free mochi-tasting, a free bounce house for children, one free

round of yoyo play, and one free Saipan-da pencil, while supplies last. Donations will be accepted to aid in continuing recovery efforts. #MarianasSTRONG T-shirts will be given away for each donation of \$15 or more, while supplies last. All proceeds will go to Karidat Social Services.

The MVA also invites the public to visit their Christmas sculpture display at Paseo de Marianas, featuring several giant-sized light sculptures ideal for picture taking.

For more information, visit the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact the MVA Community Projects Divisions at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or call 664-3210. (MVA)

Guam Guard soldiers complete US Army air assault course

Seven Guam National Guard soldiers graduated from the U.S. Army's Air Assault Course, on Friday, Dec. 7, at The Army National Guard Warrior Training Center in Fort Benning, Georgia.

The new graduates are Maj. John Guerrero and PFC Kenneth Reyes, from Headquarters Headquarters Co.; SPC Jasery Muna, from Alpha Co.; Sgt. Christian Melicio, from Bravo Co.; SSgt. Danielglen Salas and Sgt. Rick Mendiola, from Charlie Co.; and SPC Brian Castro, from Delta Co.

The U.S. Army's Air Assault

School is a 10-day course designed to prepare soldiers for insertion, evacuation and pathfinder missions that call for the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters.

Air assault training is one of the most physically challenging 10 days in the Army as it focuses on the mastery of rappelling techniques and sling load procedures, skills that involve intense concentration and a commitment to safety and preparation. Training is broken into three phases, each lasting three days: combat assault phase, sling load

phase, and rappel phase. On graduation day, cadets will undergo a 12-mile rucksack march. When they complete the march, they will earn their wings as official air assault soldiers.

Air assault school is necessarily physically and mentally demanding, as soldiers will be required to handle heavy equipment and perform dangerous tasks under extremely stressful conditions. Successful candidates must possess a keen eye for detail and a dedication to meticulous preparation. (PR)



GUAM NATIONAL GUARD
Seven soldiers, from the Guam Army National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment, graduate from the U.S. Army's Air Assault Course, on Friday, Dec. 7, at The Army National Guard Warrior Training Center in Fort Benning, Georgia. From left, PFC Kenneth Reyes, Headquarters Co.; Sgt. Rick Mendiola, Charlie Co.; SPC Jasery Muna, Alpha Co.; SSgt. Danielglen Salas, Charlie Co.; Sgt. Christian Melicio, Bravo Co.; Maj. John Guerrero, Headquarters Co.; and SPC Brian Castro, Delta Co.

Water outage in San Vicente, Upper Dandan, Obyan

There is currently an emergency water service interruption for the upper, lower and south San Vicente, Upper Dandan, and Obyan areas.

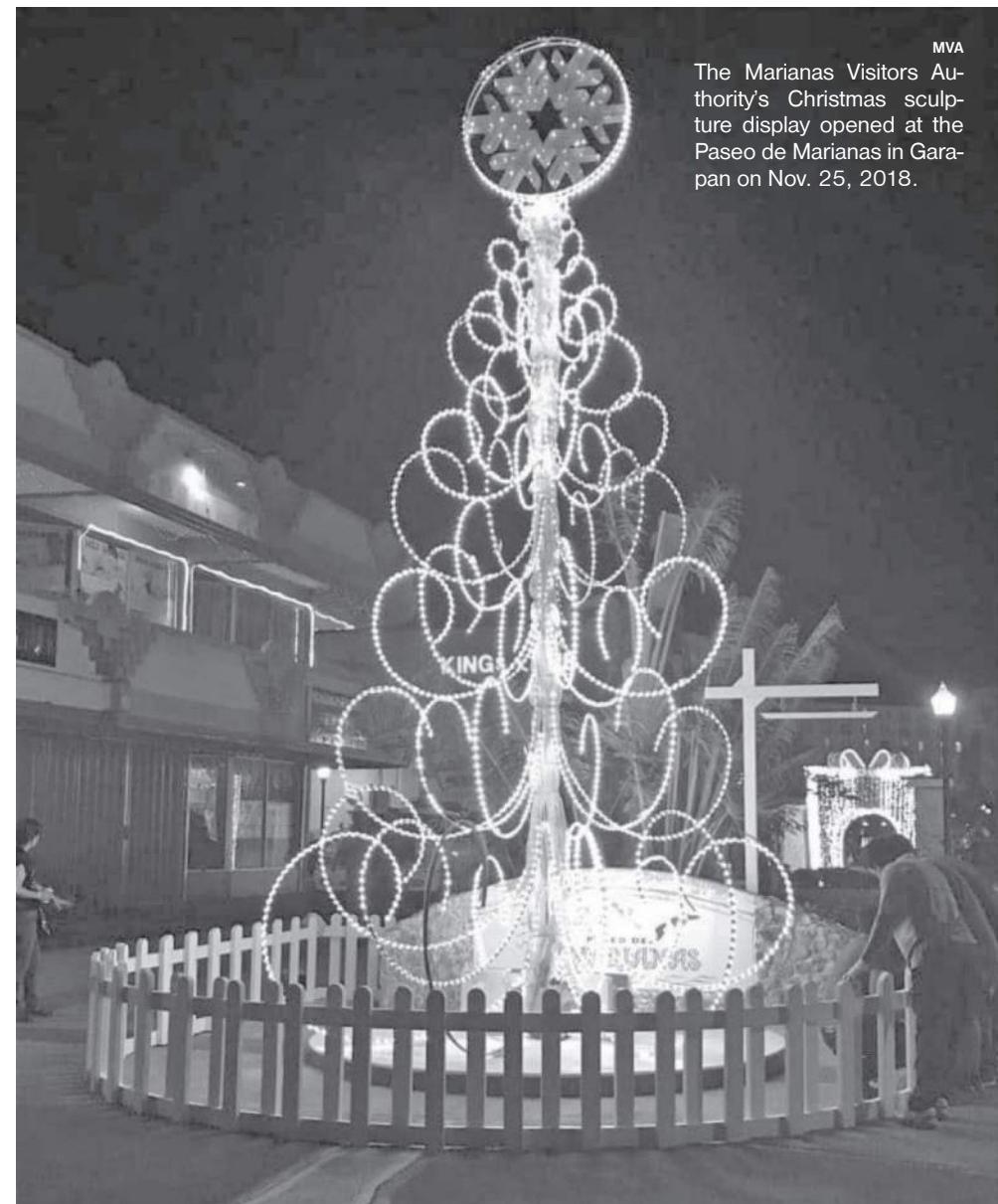
The cause of the interruption is due to an 8-inch transmission line break on Isa Drive in San Vicente north of San Vicente Elementary baseball field.

Water personnel of the Com-

monwealth Utilities Corp. were making the necessary repairs yesterday and expected to complete work by 4:30pm.

Once the repairs are completed, the CUC crew will then need ample time to refill the tank and for the whole distribution line to be pressurized.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (CUC)



MVA
The Marianas Visitors Authority's Christmas sculpture display opened at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan on Nov. 25, 2018.


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation


JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-008

Opening Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2018
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Human Resources Manager (Notice of CLOSURE)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Manages the functions of assigned unit/designated program, which includes planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluating programs, projects, processes, procedures, systems, standards, and/or services. Ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards. Serves as a liaison with internal departments, officials, agencies, partners, contractors and other external organizations, groups and representatives. Serves as a representative at a variety of meetings, public events, on committees, and/or other related events regarding services, programs, or projects. Researches, reviews, interprets, analyzes and prepares a variety of information, data, and reports; provides quality control and assurance of assigned function and services; recommends and implements policies and procedures to improve operational effectiveness and provide enhancements to services or programs. Manages assigned budget and provides input to the annual budget development process. Prepares cost estimates and budget recommendations. Monitors, administers and controls budget allocation and authorizes expenditures. Assists in planning, developing, recommending and implementing goals, objectives, policies, procedures and standards. Coordinates operational and program efforts in alignment with goals and objectives of assigned area of responsibility. Planning, overseeing and providing human resources operations, support and activities; Providing coaching and recommendations to management and staff regarding personnel needs and issues; Working with upper management and legal counsel regarding disciplinary actions; Providing guidance and support related to employment processes and programs. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION:
SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Administration, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
\$56,439.00 to \$74,470.00 per annum (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience, Exempt)
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One (1)

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Student journalists get shut down

It is a newspaper's duty to print the news and raise hell," Chicago Times publisher Wilbur Storey declared in 1861. Those functions are not guaranteed to please everyone. Either is bound to occasionally dismay or infuriate some readers, as every journalist learns. The ones at Har-Ber High School in Springdale, Ark., learned it earlier, and more painfully, than most.

In October, the Har-Ber Herald published a story based on months of investigation by student journalists after five varsity football players transferred to Springdale High School, in the same school district. Students are not allowed to make such moves to play on a different athletic team.

Parents of the students had written letters (obtained by The Herald staff through Freedom of Information Act requests) asking for the transfers for academic reasons. But the student paper interviewed two players who admitted on the record that they switched in pursuit of major college football offers.

"We just want to go over there because we have a better chance of getting scholarships and playing at D1," said one, referring to the top NCAA division. Another expressed the same hope and thought "going to Springdale would be the best like to kind of get there." That issue of the paper included an editorial criticizing the transfer system.

It was an exposé worthy of professional journalists, and it generated a flurry of attention for the newspaper. But, like exposés by professional journalists, it angered some people. The district's deputy superintendent ordered the faculty adviser to remove the story from the website.

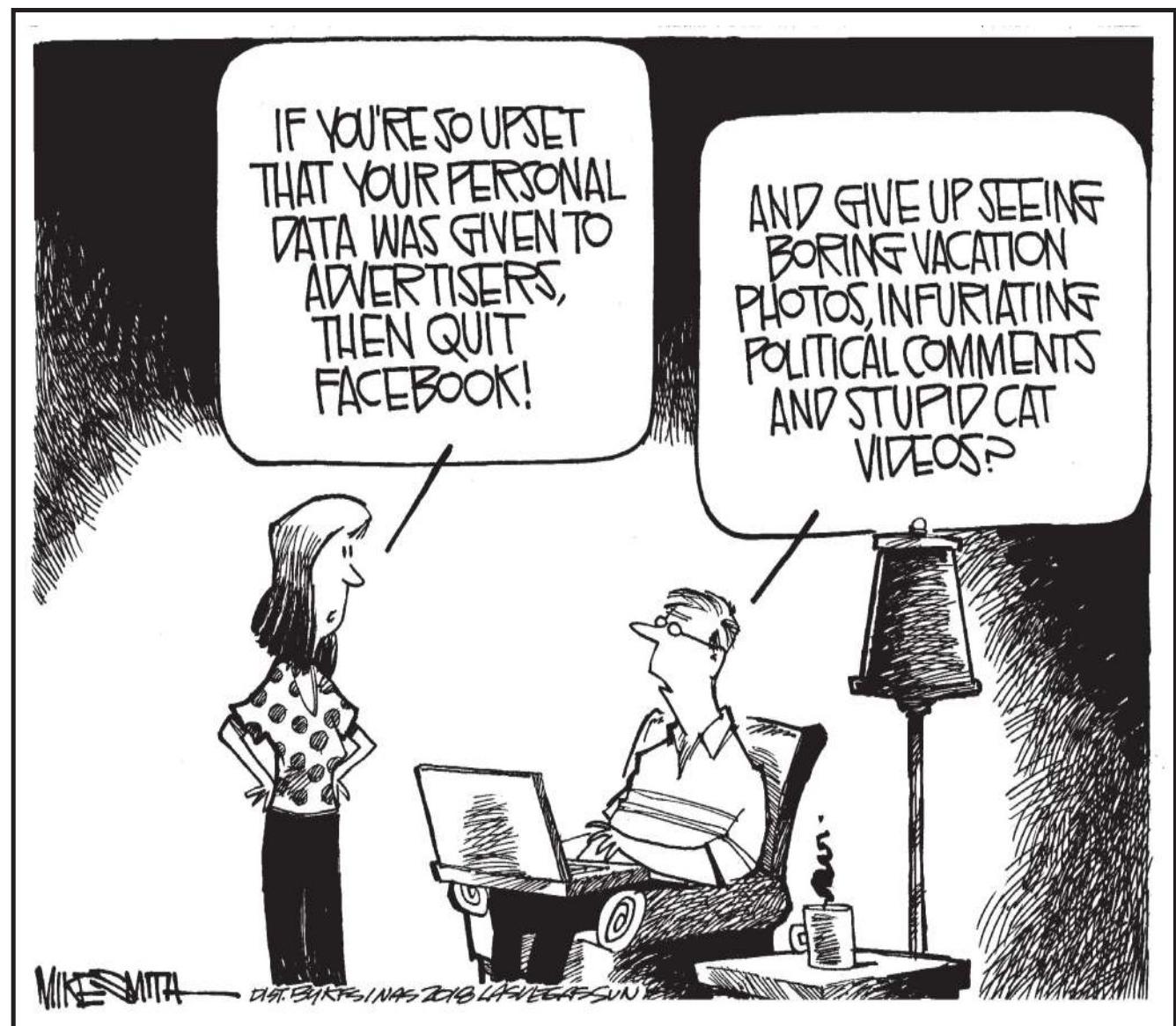
Springdale Superintendent Jim Rollins, reported Buzzfeed News, said the story would remain banned because it was "intentionally negative, demeaning, derogatory, hurtful and potentially harmful to the students addressed in those articles," as well as "extremely divisive and disruptive"—adjectives that bear no resemblance to the careful, thorough case made by The Herald. Henceforth, all stories will have to be reviewed in advance by administrators.

These were brilliant responses, if the intended lesson was that the truth can be told only if it doesn't upset anyone. The student reporters uncovered a story—you could even call it a scandal—that was important to the two high schools and the community. They appear to have done it in a careful, thorough way. And their reward was to be shut down.

Student journalists, of course, need the guidance of adults as they learn the craft, just as professional reporters work under editors and publishers. But they should be judged on whether their stories are accurate, relevant and important, not on whether they successfully avoid controversy.

What the administrators did may not even be a legal response. Arkansas has a law protecting the free expression of public high school students, as long as their

See STUDENT on Next Page



Being reasonable about climate change

It used to be called global warming and now it's mostly called climate change, but it's still a near apocalypse frowning on the horizon, according to a recent government report. A biggie, it says, will be shrinkage of the economy through the rest of this century. What should we do?

Be reasonable, for one thing, and that includes finding out more about the report, a 1,656-page offering of worst-case scenarios from the 60-member National Climate Assessment committee. It enlisted 300 scientists and others together for research, and 18 federal agencies reviewed its findings. Admittedly, that's a lot of bureaucrats playing with a lot of words, leading to fear of mishmash having its way, but we do get interesting views of what unabated climate treachery could do.

The seas will continue to rise. More wildfires will come our way. Crops won't bloom like they used to. Because of cows having fewer plants to chew, dairy products will decrease. Weather will behave fiercely. Blackouts will keep electricity at bay. Faced with flooding, infrastructure won't hold up. Premature deaths will increase in the Midwest. Mental health will be affected.

The report's preventive answer is to do something significant about lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Minus that, it warns, we will have to spend enormous sums of money adjusting to these calamities, and that's why the economy will find its way to a ditch getting ever deeper.

Right off, however, we have a counter-assessment that the report's estimates of the cost of all of this won't be overwhelming relative to GDP growth. According to analyses in the Wall Street Journal, even small growth will compensate for the damage and adjustments, and I myself would add that, whatever the trepidations, government interventions deserve as much examination as the climate itself.

President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan, for instance, was political power misused, a constitutionally questionable, crushingly expensive, unilaterally enacted scheme in which states could have their own laws destroyed as global warming got off very nearly scot-free.

Part of the problem was wanting to replace coal with heavily subsidized solar and wind power even though they are technologically unprepared for the task before them. They provide energy intermittently, when the sun shines and wind blows. Energy is needed around the clock.

Still, the United States leads all other countries in the world in

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



reduced CO₂ emissions, and guess why. Free enterprise has been replacing use of coal, which has lots of CO₂, with use of natural gas, which is far cheaper and has far less CO₂. The market said hot-diggy-dog and no government guidance was necessary. The thing is, it takes the whole world to reduce global warming and most of it is not trying.

Despite all the crying, screaming and despair when President Donald Trump announced he was pulling out of the international Paris Accord, only four or five of the 196 nations that signed the international agreement have done much of anything. Even if they did, the goals are so insignificant that little would be accomplished. Well, it's a start, some say, and yes, it's a start to evasive fraud as worldwide CO₂ emissions have gone up by half in recent decades.

If you believe meaningful, definitive CO₂ diminishment crucial to human flourishing, you also must believe in a carbon tax and in accompanying tax reductions to keep the economy purring (and the rioters at home). And, if you believe in then maintaining an industrialized society, you've got to subscribe to nuclear power because renewables are nowhere near ready and natural gas does in fact emit CO₂.

Nuclear power, foolishly being pushed aside in Germany, which is consequently suffering, is getting safer and killed no one by way of radiation at Fukushima, for instance. While these plants are expensive, research and standardization could turn that around. Among those advocating nuclear power are pioneering climate change activist James Hanson, the Union of Concerned Scientists and researchers at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Carnegie Mellon University. Nations dispensing with nuclear plants are paying the price.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

On a mission from God, but to do what?

When is the murder of a missionary a martyrdom, and when is it a justifiable act of self-defense by an insular culture that doesn't take the threat of incursion by outsiders lightly?

That conundrum lies at the heart of the unfortunate demise of John Allen Chau.

Chau was the intrepid 26-year-old Christian missionary from Washington state who so fervently desired to evangelize a remote indigenous tribe on North Sentinel Island off the coast of India that he disregarded their right to be left alone.

In mid-November, Northern Sentinelese tribal members asserted themselves in what could be called a stand-your-ground moment of international proportions. They're believed to have killed him by bow and arrow, according to the accounts of some of the fishermen the Chau hired to take him to the island.

Chau's body, Indian officials have now decided, will be left on the island.

It would be simply too dangerous to recover the corpse. The threat that the tribal members would attack and kill anyone who neared it is too great. Additionally, there is the danger of introducing diseases for which the Sentinelese have no immunity.

Oddly enough, some who wish to glorify Chau as a martyr have found a convenient thread of hope, or perhaps rather of myth. In online postings and interviews with media, some are asserting the possibility that Chau survived and is alive, living on the island as some sort of biblical castaway. Without clear confirmation of his death, the contention may only grow. And that raises the danger others may follow in his footsteps.

Sorry, you can't protect Mueller

Mitch McConnell just did our constitutional order an enormous favor by burying the so-called Robert Mueller protection bill, hopefully never to rise again.

There's been much harumphing about how Republicans are in the tank for President Donald Trump by not getting on board the bipartisan bill, but it is a singularly misbegotten piece of legislation.

Plan A, i.e., passing the thing, would have been hard enough. But its supporters apparently didn't think through a need for a Plan B or C: Trump would have vetoed the bill if it passed Congress, and if it somehow passed Congress with a veto-proof majority, the Supreme Court likely would have struck it down.

The push for the bill again shows how, to this point, Trump's main threat to our constitutional system has been catalyzing a hysterical opposition. That opposition is willing to throw overboard legal and constitutional niceties to thwart Trump.

Hence, much of the #resistance judging regarding Trump measures. And hence the astonishing spectacle of U.S. senators, sworn to uphold the Constitution, advancing a blatantly unconstitutional bill.

The president is the chief executive, and like it or not, Trump is president. "I conceive that if any power whatsoever is in its nature executive," James Madison declared, "it is the power of appointing, overseeing and controlling those who execute the laws."

If the president can fire the attorney general (the ill-used Jeff Sessions attests that he can), he certainly can fire Mueller. The attorney general is a much more important position.

In compelling Senate testimony, Yale law professor Akhil Amar explained the constitutional problems with the Mueller protection bill. One is that to be constitutional, the special counsel must be an inferior officer. Otherwise, he has to be confirmed by the Senate, which Mueller wasn't. And if he's an inferior officer, he can be fired.

The problem with the protection bill in terms of constitutional

STUDENT

From Page 10

stories don't involve obscenity, libel, invasion of privacy or incitement to violate laws or school regulations.

The ultimate outcome is yet to be determined. A school district spokesman said the entire matter is still under review.

Good journalism assumes that knowing the truth, however uncomfortable it may be, is better than not knowing. The Har-Ber Herald staff seems to understand that premise, even if some adults don't.

You can bet that some equally voyeuristic person is now imagining himself or herself more cunning than Chau, capable of slipping onto the remote island, breaking all the same cultural and legal barriers that Chau so brazenly passed through.

The missionary group that trained Chau, All Nations, based in Kansas City, is certainly not helping matters. It has carefully distanced from any culpability for Chau's expedition. It released statements of condolence for the Chau family while also dodging any notion of responsibility it might have had to dissuade him from this dangerous undertaking.

The organization praised him as a "humble and courageous" young man of faith who couldn't be constrained, not that they tried.

"We remember, too, how throughout church history, the privilege of sharing the gospel has often involved great cost," reads an All Nations statement. "We pray that John's sacrificial efforts will bear eternal fruit in due season."

To many Christians, any criticism of Chau's mission or of outfits like All Nations smacks of anti-Christian bias or religious intolerance. But it must be asked: If a missionary incites an isolated, legally protected indigenous group to take a human life—murder being an obvious offense to God and the sanctity of life—how does that qualify as a soul-saving mission?

The world has been mesmerized by Chau's story because it seems so anachronistic; it calls to mind the heedless arrogance of the colonial era that led to so many atrocities and destroyed so many cultures in the name of the "civilizing" mission. And there's a bit of Robinson Crusoe adventure to it (albeit without a storybook ending).

But today anthropologists and missionaries looking to contact

By MARY SANCHEZ

The Kansas City Star



Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via email at msanchez@kcstar.com.

remote cultures have more enlightened practices. Missionary work is often arranged around tremendous acts of grace and caring, demonstrating faith by medical work, by helping with clean water projects and otherwise offering aid to modernize living conditions without a sense of superiority that subverts or intrudes.

Chau's death should inspire reflection about the role and the methods of missionaries, the rights of indigenous people to remain protected and the folly of the exuberant embrace of martyrdom.

It is possible to laud Chau's faith and willingness to endure hardship and also accept that religious zeal unchecked by humility and common sense can cause a lot of trouble and lead to unintended and unwanted consequences.

We don't know what in the lives of the North Sentinelese needs fixing because they have successfully rebuffed inquiries from the outside world for a century or more. Maybe let's agree they've got things under control on the island.

In the end, it was really Chau who needed saving.

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

dire political consequences, and now fail to achieve its end of truly shutting him down. If cashiered, Mueller would presumably show up in January as the first witness before Rep. Jerry Nadler's Judiciary Committee and spill all he knows.

That's probably all the protection Mueller needs, and certainly all the protection he can legitimately be afforded.

I would also like to send our deep thanks to our sponsors: Nesian Built, National Office Supply, #SketchMade, Beyond Limits, Arlyn Arboleda (for the great idea to do a drive specifically for the kids), James Roberto, Antonio Muna, Berty Tomei, Maricon Bricia-Allen, #Vincepalacios, and #Getfitwithmay

Shoutout to all who donated to our drive! Your donations really helped a lot of people in need.

On top of the house-to-house that we did, we were also able to donate a truckload of clothes, diapers and kids' stuff to the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation for the outreaches they have going on.

Tia Ichihara-Allen

San Antonio, Saipan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

I am so very proud of my son, Anthony Allen, and his car club, Beyond Limits. He and his car club family made it a point to help the community he grew up in San Antonio and was able to get sponsors so that his car club was able to do an outreach in the community. This is something we as parents always want to see—that our kids grow up and give back. I am so proud of you all, keep up the good work and show the younger generation that you give and you will always be blessed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the car club Beyond Limits hand out relief goods in San Antonio.

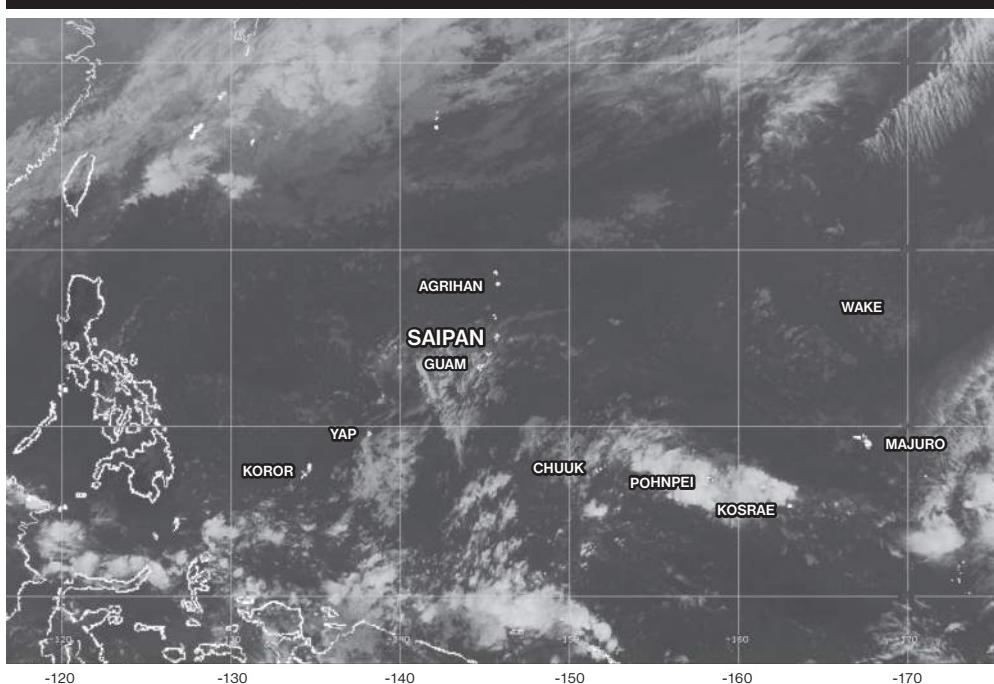
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			

86°	78°	86°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed an area of clouds and showers over the Marianas this morning. Models show the shower coverage decreasing through the morning...therefore the predominant sky cover will be partly cloudy during the day. Mostly cloudy skies will return tonight and persist through the day on Tuesday. Relative humidity at 700 mb will be less than 70 percent through the week which suggest showers will remain isolated. Expect winds of 10 to 20 mph through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87°	/	80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87°	/	78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	81°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET			
4:02 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.23	
11:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85	
4:54 PM	LOW TIDE	1.23	
9:08 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.66	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:30 AM	9:06 PM	-
Wednesday	10:15 AM	9:56 PM	-
Thursday	10:57 AM	10:44 PM	-
Friday	11:37 AM	11:32 PM	-
Saturday	12:16 AM	-	-

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:11am Daily			
UA105 4:45pm 5:25pm 2, 4				UA104 3:00pm 3:41pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended			
7C3451 3:15am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:00am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			
				7C3452 10:05pm 2:00am+1 1			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily resume from Nov 27				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily resume from Nov 27			
<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>				<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>			
TW9308 1:10am 4:10am 3, 4				TW9307 6:30pm 12:10am+1 2, 3			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am Daily				TW307 7:00pm 12:35am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
TW9308 3:20am 6:30am 2				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
TW9308 3:25am 6:30am 5				TW9307 9:00pm 2:20am+1 1			
7C3403 4:35am 8:25am Daily				TW9307 9:05pm 2:25am+1 4			
				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – resume from Nov 28				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 28			
3U8648 6:10am 8:50am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:20pm 4:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) – resume from Nov 28				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 28			
JD396 7:30am 11:00am 1				JD395 8:05am 3:30pm 4			
JD396 4:50pm 7:55pm 4				JD395 9:35pm 5:00am+1 7			
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) – resume from Nov 26				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 26			
3U8646 4:30am 7:55am 2, 6				3U8645 7:55pm 2:40am+1 1, 5			
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – resume from Nov 27				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 27			
MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7				MU763 4:40pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 9:15am 9:40pm 2, 5 via GUM				UA182/174 12:40am 8:11am+1 3, 6 via GUM			

Business

GM fights to retain key tax credit amid plant closing plans

WASHINGTON (AP) —

General Motors is fighting to retain a valuable tax credit for electric vehicles as the nation's largest automaker tries to deal with the political fallout triggered by its plans to shutter several U.S. factories and shed thousands of workers.

Preserving the \$7,500 tax incentive for buyers is crucial for GM as the company pivots from internal combustion engines in favor of building cars powered by batteries or hydrogen fuel cells. Yet the layoffs and plant closings could imperil GM's push to keep the incentive. It helps make plug-ins such as the \$36,000 Chevy Bolt more affordable at a time when competition from other electric vehicle makers is heating up.

GM faces opposition from President Donald Trump and other Republicans who consider the credit a waste of taxpayer money and want it eliminated. Trump, who has pledged a manufacturing rebirth in the Midwest, reacted angrily to GM's "transformation" announcement late last month, declaring that his administration was "looking at cutting all GM subsidies, including for electric cars."

The company already is on the verge of being phased out of the tax credit program unless Congress changes a law



AP

General Motors CEO Mary Barra arrives for a meeting with Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, to discuss GM's announcement it would stop making the Chevy Cruze at its Lordstown, Ohio, plant, part of a massive restructuring for the Detroit-based automaker, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018.

that caps the break at 200,000 vehicles per manufacturer. Without the incentive, GM may be forced to cut the price of its electric cars to keep prospective customers from taking their business elsewhere, according to automotive industry experts.

As evidence of the credit's importance to GM's future, the automaker has expanded its lobbying footprint in Washington and even joined forces with two rivals, Tesla and Nissan, to call for 200,000-vehicle limit to be scrapped.

Standing in the way of that

goal is Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Barrasso introduced legislation in October to abolish the tax credit, a move he said would save about \$20 billion over the next 10 years. He has argued

the market for electric vehicles is already established and "no longer needs the crutch of government assistance."

"The idea of the subsidies had to do with trying to make sure that electric vehicles would be a viable technology," Barrasso said. "Well,

that's clearly there."

The tax credit came up briefly during a private meeting on Wednesday between Ohio's senators, Republican Rob Portman and Democrat Sherrod Brown, and GM chief executive Mary Barra, according to a congressional aide familiar with the conversation. As part of the restructuring, GM said it will stop making the Chevy Cruze at its Lordstown, Ohio, plant by March and is considering closing the plant for good.

Portman told Barra that it's difficult to help with priorities such as the electric vehicle credit when GM is moving production out of Ohio, according to the aide, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the private conversation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

One of the lobbyists working to salvage the credit for GM is Kent Hance, a former chancellor of Texas Tech University who is well connected in GOP circles, according to his online profile. Hance lists his role as a fundraiser for the campaigns of outgoing House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and others. He has known Rick Perry, the energy secretary and former Texas governor, for nearly 30 years.

China summons US envoy to protest detention of Huawei exec

BEIJING (AP) — China summoned the U.S. ambassador to Beijing on Sunday to protest Canada's detention of a senior executive of Chinese electronics giant Huawei at Washington's behest and demand the U.S. cancel an order for her arrest.

The official Xinhua News

Agency said Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng "lodged solemn representations and strong protests" with Ambassador Terry Branstad against the detention of Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou. Meng, who is reportedly suspected of trying to

evade U.S. trade curbs on Iran, was detained on Dec. 1 while changing planes in Vancouver, Canada.

The Xinhua report quoted Le as calling Meng's detention "extremely egregious" and demanded the U.S. vacate an order for her arrest. It

quoted Le as calling for the U.S. to "immediately correct its wrong actions" and said it would take further steps based on Washington's response.

The move followed the summoning of Canadian Ambassador John McCallum on Saturday over Meng's detention and a similar warning of "grave consequences" if she is

not released.

The Canadian province of British Columbia said in a statement Sunday it canceled a trade mission to China because of Meng's detention. The announcement came amid fears China could detain Canadians in retaliation.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for

phone and internet companies and has been the target of deepening U.S. security concerns over its ties to the Chinese government. The U.S. has pressured European countries and other allies to limit use of its technology, warning they could be opening themselves up to surveillance and theft of information.

Office gift-giving is a minefield

Q: One of my coworkers recently informed me that everyone always chips in to get a Christmas gift for our boss. I was somewhat surprised, because this was not done in any of my previous jobs. In my experience, managers were more likely to give presents to employees instead of the other way around. While I don't mind contributing, this just seems odd. Has giving the boss a gift become a common practice?

A: No, managers are not universally being showered with holiday goodies. However, offices do vary considerably when it comes to gift-giving for both bosses and coworkers. And within any given work group, individuals may also have different opinions about what is appropriate.

For some, purchasing presents for colleagues adds additional sparkle to the holiday, while others view this task as simply one more annoying chore on an endless seasonal to-do list. Coworkers may also disagree about whether their boss should be honored with a gift, and those experiencing financial stress often feel embarrassed by their inability to contribute.

Furthermore, when a group has diverse religious traditions, everyone may not be celebrating the same holiday, and some may actually be prohibited from participating in certain events.

When you add up all these differing viewpoints, celebratory gift-giving becomes a potential minefield of resentments and hurt feelings.

To maintain the proper spirit for the season, managers should provide clear guidance for dealing with this dilemma. Some offices celebrate with food and cards instead of presents. Others draw names for gifts and set a spending limit. And wise bosses firmly direct their staff not to buy them anything.

In this case, however, you seem to have encountered an established office tradition. Before the next holiday season rolls around, perhaps you can assess how your manager feels about this practice and whether alternatives would be welcomed. But as a newbie, if you choose not to participate, you unfortunately risk being viewed as a Christmas Grinch.

Q: I will soon be leaving my current job because my husband has accepted a position in another state. However, we intend to delay my relocation until we can sell our home and find a suitable place to live. Since I have no idea how long this will take, I don't know when I should notify my boss that I will be leaving.

If I bring this up now, I won't be able to give him a defi-

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service



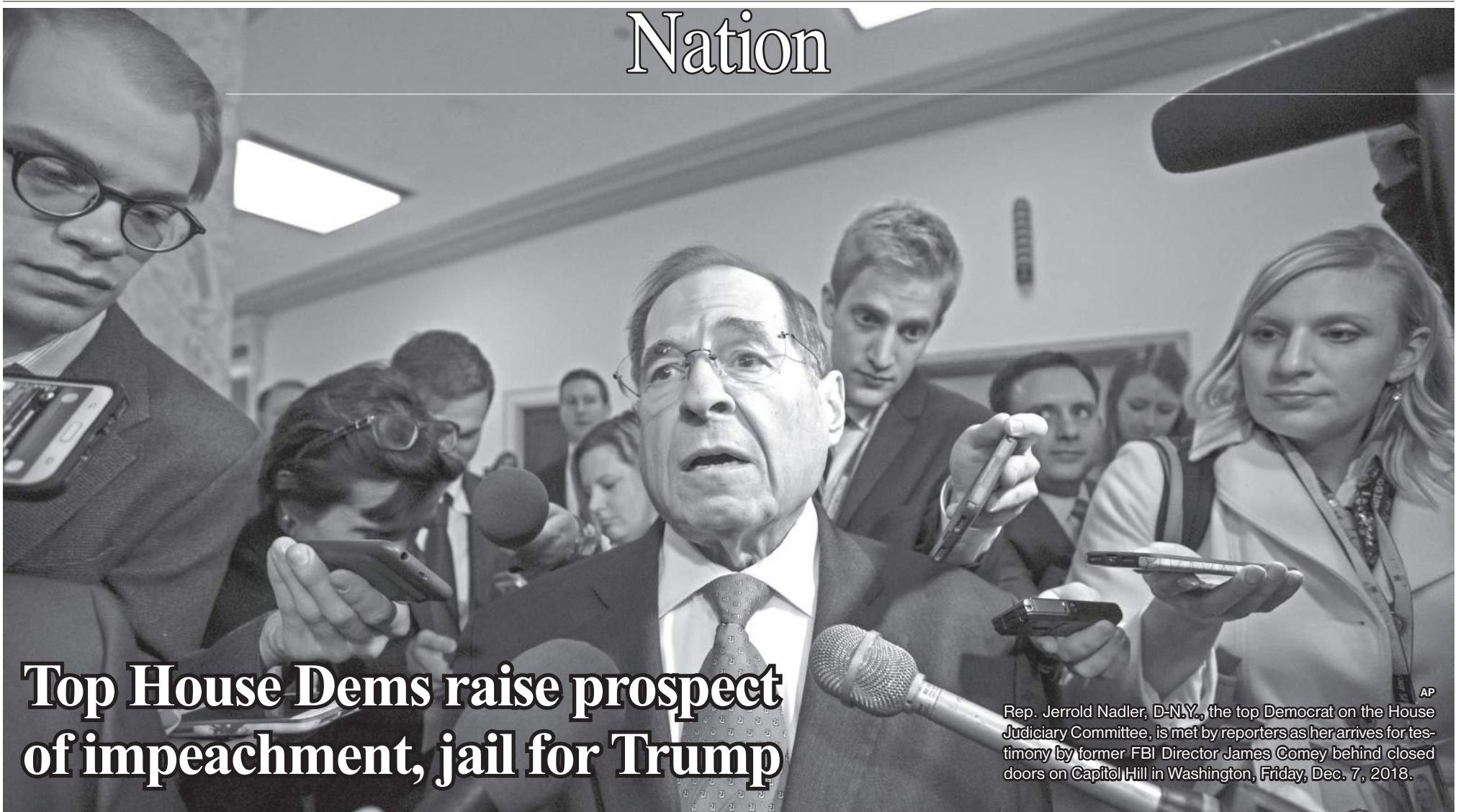
Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

nite date for my resignation. But if I wait too long, I may not have enough time to train the person who replaces me. What's the right thing to do in this situation?

A: While your concern for your employer is admirable, this is a time to put yourself first. As soon as you mention leaving, management will view you as a lame duck and begin pondering your replacement. This could not only reduce your effectiveness at work, but also present a problem if your circumstances should unexpectedly change.

Once your relocation date is firm, you can then decide how much notice to give your employer. But until that time, don't mention your pending departure to anyone at work. Shared secrets have a way of leaking out.

Nation



Top House Dems raise prospect of impeachment, jail for Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top House Democrats on Sunday raised the prospect of impeachment or almost-certain prison time for President Donald Trump if it's proved that he directed illegal hush-money payments to women, adding to the legal pressure on the president over the Russia investigation and other scandals.

"There's a very real prospect that on the day Donald Trump leaves office, the Justice Department may indict him, that he may be the first president in quite some time to face the real prospect of jail time," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the incoming chairman of the House intelligence committee. "The big-

Pence aide out of running to be Trump's next chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump evaluated new candidates to serve as his next chief of staff Sunday after plans for an orderly succession for departing John Kelly fell through.

The new hire was to be key to a West Wing reshuffling to shift focus toward the 2020 re-election campaign and the challenge of governing with Democrats in control of the House.

But even senior White House officials were caught off guard Sunday when Trump and Nick Ayers, whose hiring was believed to be a done deal, couldn't come to terms. No obvious successor was in sight and there was some fretting that Trump may not be able to fill the job by the time Kelly was set to leave around year's end.

Ayers, the chief of staff to Vice President Mike Pence,

ger pardon question may come down the road as the next president has to determine whether to pardon Donald Trump."

Rep. Jerry Nadler, the incoming chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, described the details in prosecutors' filings Friday in the case of Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, as evidence that Trump was "at the center of a massive fraud."

"They would be impeachable offenses," Nadler said.

In the filings, prosecutors in New York for the first time link Trump to a federal crime of illegal payments to buy the silence of two women during the 2016 campaign. Special

counsel Robert Mueller's office also laid out previously undisclosed contacts between Trump associates and Russian intermediaries and suggested the Kremlin aimed early on to influence Trump and his Republican campaign by playing to both his political and personal business interests.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and has compared the investigations to a "witch hunt."

Nadler, D-N.Y., said it was too early to say whether Congress would pursue impeachment proceedings based on the illegal payments alone because lawmakers would need to weigh the gravity of the offense to justify "overturning"

who will always be with our #MAGA agenda. I will be making a decision soon!"

With Ayers out of the running, Trump was considering four candidates for the post, including Office of Management and Budget director Mick Mulvaney, according to a person familiar with the president's thinking. Also emerging as a candidate was Rep. Mark Meadows, a North Carolina Republican and the chairman of the House Freedom Caucus.

But Mulvaney was not interested in becoming chief of staff, according to a person close to him who spoke on condition of anonymity. Mulvaney has been saying for almost two months now that he would be more interested in becoming commerce or treasury secretary if that would be helpful to the president, the person said.

the 2016 election. Nadler and other lawmakers said Sunday they would await additional details from Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference and possible coordination with the Trump campaign to determine the extent of Trump's misconduct.

Regarding the illegal payments, "whether they are important enough to justify an impeachment is a different question, but certainly they'd be impeachable offenses because even though they were committed before the president became president, they were committed in the service of fraudulently obtaining the office," Nadler said.

Mueller has not said when he will complete a report of any findings, and it isn't clear that any such report would be made available to Congress. That would be up to the attorney general. Trump on Friday said he would nominate former Attorney General William Barr to the post to succeed Jeff Sessions.

Nadler indicated that Democrats, who will control the House in January, will step up

their own investigations. He said Congress, the Justice Department and the special counsel need to dig deeper into the allegations, which include questions about whether Trump lied about his business arrangements with Russians and about possible obstruction of justice.

"The new Congress will not try to shield the president," he said. "We will try to get to the bottom of this, in order to serve the American people and to stop this massive conspiracy—this massive fraud on the American people."

ACROSS THE NATION

Anti-Semitic papers reported near shooting site, elsewhere

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Authorities are investigating the dissemination of anti-Semitic pamphlets in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, including the one in which a gunman killed 11 people in a synagogue in October. A spokesman said police and the city department of public safety "are taking this matter very seriously and will follow every investigative avenue." Police said Sunday morning the material was found in neighborhoods including Squirrel Hill, where a gunman entered the Tree of Life synagogue on Oct. 27 and killed 11 people in the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history. A man who authorities said raged against Jews during and after the shooting has pleaded not guilty to numerous murder and hate crime charges. Police said "such hate-filled material" will not be tolerated in the city by residents, city officials or law enforcement.

Jury deliberations to resume latest meningitis outbreak case

BOSTON (AP)—Jury deliberations are continuing in the case of six former employees of the Massachusetts facility responsible for the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak that killed 76 people and sickened hundreds. Jurors in the latest case stemming from the outbreak linked to the now-closed New England Compounding Center are scheduled to return to federal

court on Monday after failing to reach a verdict Friday. The former employees face mail fraud, racketeering and conspiracy charges. The pharmacy's co-founder, Barry Cadden, and a pharmacist, Glenn Chin, are already serving prison sentences after being convicted of mail fraud and racketeering. They were both cleared of second-degree murder. The outbreak sickened more than 700 people in 20 states and is considered the worst public health crisis in recent U.S. history.

Oldest wild seabird lays another egg on Midway Atoll

HONOLULU (AP)—The world's oldest known wild seabird has laid another egg. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the Laysan albatross named Wisdom appeared at her nest site at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge last month. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reports biologists confirm she laid the egg. Wisdom and her mate return to the same site on Midway Atoll each year. Laysan albatrosses lay one egg and raise one chick per year. Biologists believe Wisdom is at least 68 years old. Biologist Chandler Robbins first identified and banded Wisdom in 1956. She has returned to Midway almost every year since 2002. Midway Atoll is home to the world's largest colony of albatross. The island about 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometers) northwest of Honolulu was the site of a pivotal World War II battle.

Asia

North Korea tells China it's committed to denuclearization

BEIJING (AP)—North Korea's foreign minister said his country remains committed to ending its nuclear weapons program in talks Friday with his Chinese counterpart, according to China's foreign ministry.

The talks in Beijing between Ri Yong Ho and Wang Yi came amid a lack of progress in international efforts to persuade North Korea to reverse its drive to build a nuclear arsenal.

China is North Korea's most important ally, but has agreed to increasingly strict United Nations economic sanctions over its programs to develop nuclear weapons and the ballistic missiles to deliver them.

Ri told Wang that North

Korea is "committed to realizing denuclearization and safeguarding the peace and stability of the (Korean) peninsula," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a daily briefing.

In the talks, Ri was also expected to have been briefed on discussions last week between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump, who recently said his next meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would likely happen in January or February.

Ri later paid a courtesy call on Xi, who told him, "The international and regional situation as well as the situation on the Korean Peninsula remains in flux."

"So timely exchanges and the coordination of positions between China and North Korea are still extremely essential," Xi said.

Despite initial optimism generated by Kim and Trump's June summit meeting in Singapore, diplomacy has since come to a halt amid disputes over a U.S. demand that North Korea first produce a full inventory of its nuclear weapons and take other denuclearization steps before winning significant

outside rewards.

China, which fought on North Korea's behalf in the 1950-53 Korean War, has suggested a more staggered approach, including a suspension of large-scale South Korean and U.S. wargames on the peninsula.

In addition to sanctions relief, North Korea wants a declaration on a formal close to the war, which ended with a ceasefire, not a peace treaty, and other reciprocal measures from the United States. North Ko-

rea has argued that it has taken some steps, like dismantling its nuclear testing facility and releasing American detainees.

While traditionally close ties between China and North Korea have frayed somewhat, Xi hosted Kim for three summits in China this year, both before and after his Singapore meeting with Trump.

However, Xi did not attend celebrations of the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding in September, seen as a sign that Beijing expected

more concrete steps by Kim toward denuclearization.

Despite that, Geng said bilateral relations had "entered a new historic stage," and the sides would "continue forging ahead with the development of the peninsular situation in the direction of denuclearization."

Ri's visit also comes amid intense speculation over the possibility that Kim will visit South Korea this month, in what would be the first such trip by a North Korean leader since the war.



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, center, arrives at the Beijing International airport in Beijing Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

AP

Diplomats: US postpones meeting on N. Korea human rights

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States postponed a Security Council meeting scheduled for Monday to discuss human rights in North Korea because it couldn't get enough support to hold it, U.N. diplomats said Friday.

The well-informed diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because discussions have been private, said the U.S. didn't have support from nine of the 15 council nations, the minimum number needed to hold the meeting.

North Korea's U.N. Ambassador Kim Song sent letters last week to all council members except the United States accusing the Trump administration and some supporters of trying to "stoke confrontation" instead of promoting peace efforts by calling for the council meeting.

The Security Council has discussed human rights in North Korea for the past four years. Each meeting went

ahead only after a procedural vote where the U.S. got at least nine "yes" votes. Diplomats said the U.S. had eight "yes" votes this year, but couldn't persuade Ivory Coast to support the meeting.

"If we are unable to hold this important discussion this month, we hope to revisit holding this meeting in the new year," a U.S. official, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said Friday.

The official said "the U.S. remains deeply concerned with the human rights situation in North Korea" and continues to urge Kim Jong Un's regime to "begin to respect human rights, and adhere to international standards on humanitarian assistance."

In October, the U.N. independent investigator on human rights in the isolated Asian nation said Kim's summits with the presidents of South Korea and the United States have not changed his country's abys-

mal human rights record.

Tomas Ojea Quintana pointed to reports of "systematic, widespread abuses" of human rights and a U.N. commission of inquiry's findings in 2014

that possible crimes against humanity have been committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the country's official name.

Relations between the two Koreas and between the DPRK and the United States have improved since Kim reached out to South Korea and President Donald Trump early this year with a promise to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

U.S.-North Korea talks on the North's nuclear program haven't produced much progress since Kim and Trump held the countries' first summit in Singapore in June. A second summit is expected to take place next year.

Ambassador Kim's letter recalled that "until last year, the

Taliban kill 8 Afghan soldiers in attack on checkpoint

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says the Taliban have attacked an army checkpoint in the western Farah province, killing at least eight Afghan soldiers. Abdul Samad Salehi, a provincial council member, says the insurgents abducted another 10 soldiers in the attack late Saturday. Provincial police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib says three insurgents were killed and four others were wounded. The Taliban, who control nearly half the country, carry out daily attacks mainly targeting security forces.

Ex-intel chief in South Korea found dead in possible suicide

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A former South Korean military intelligence chief was found dead on Friday, police said, in a suspected suicide. Former Defense Security Command head Lee Jae-su was being investigated by state prosecutors for allegedly ordering the illegal surveillance of families of people killed in a 2014 ferry sinking. Lee, a retired three-star general, had denied the allegation. The disaster killed more than 300 people, mostly high school students, and touched off widespread criticism of then President Park Geun-hye. She was eventually ousted from office over a corruption scandal in March 2017. Police said Lee's body was found near a Seoul building on Friday. Yonhap news agency said Lee appeared to have jumped to his death and that a suicide note was found. The Defense Ministry had no immediate comment.

World

In Gaza protests, Israeli troops aim for the legs



AP
Palestinian medics wheel a wounded youth, who was shot by Israeli troops during a protest at the Gaza Strip's border with Israel, into the treatment room of Shifa hospital in Gaza City, Friday, Dec. 7, 2018.

GAZA CITY, Gaza (AP)—Israeli forces deployed along the volatile border with the Gaza Strip have fired live rounds at rock-throwing Palestinian protesters ever since demonstrations against Israel's long-running blockade of Gaza began in March.

And for eight months, Israeli snipers have targeted one part of the body more than any other—the legs.

The Israeli army says it is responding to weekly assaults on its frontier by Palestinians armed with stones,

grenades and firebombs. The military says it opens fire only as a last resort, and considers firing at the lower limbs an act of restraint.

Still, 175 Palestinians have been shot to death, according to an Associated Press count. And the number of wounded has reached colossal proportions.

Of the 10,511 protesters treated at hospitals and field clinics in Gaza so far, at least 6,392, or roughly 60 percent, have been struck in the lower limbs, according to

Gaza's Health Ministry. At least 5,884 of those casualties were hit by live ammunition; others have been hit by rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters.

The upsurge in violence has left a visible mark on Gaza that will likely remain for decades to come. It is now common to see young men walking through dilapidated streets on crutches. Most have legs bandaged or fitted with a metal frame called a fixator, which uses pins or screws that are inserted into fractured bones to

help stabilize them.

The wounded can often be seen gathering at a treatment clinic run by the Paris-based medical charity Doctors Without Borders in Gaza City, where Associated Press photographer Felipe Dana took portraits of some of them.

Some of those he photographed acknowledged throwing stones toward Israeli troops during the demonstrations. One said he had hurled a firebomb. But others said they were unarmed bystanders; one paramedic said he was helping rescue

the wounded, while another man said he was waving a Palestinian flag and another said he was selling coffee and tea.

International human rights groups have said the military's open-fire rules are unlawful because they allow the use of potentially lethal force in situations where soldiers' lives are not in immediate danger.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, rejected international criticism that Israel's response has been excessive. Instead, he said that firing at people's legs was a sign of restraint.

"Hamas is responsible for orchestrating violent riots where thousands of Palestinians assault our borders with the goal of breaching our defensive lines and attacking Israeli forces and civilian communities," he said.

"Israeli soldiers use live fire only as a last resort, after written and verbal warnings, as well as extensive use of tear gas and other non-lethal means have been exhausted. It is our duty to defend our civilians and sovereignty, and we do it with the minimal use of force possible," he said.

Macron to break silence, address French nation amid protests

PARIS (AP)—Pressure mounted on French President Emmanuel Macron to announce concrete measures to calm protests marked by violence when he addresses the nation Monday evening, and breaks a long silence widely seen as aggravating a crisis that has shaken the government and the whole country.

The president will consult in the morning with an array of national and local officials as he tries to get a handle on the ballooning and radicalizing protest movement triggered by anger at his policies, and a growing sense that they favor the rich.

Macron will speak from the presidential Elysee Palace at 8 p.m. (1900 GMT), an Elysee official said. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and requested

anonymity.

Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux said earlier on LCI TV station he was "sure (Macron) will know how to find the path to the hearts of the French, speak to their hearts." But, he added, a "magic wand" won't solve all the problems of the protesters, known as "yellow vests" for the fluorescent safety vests they often wear.

Last week, Macron withdrew a fuel tax hike—the issue that kicked off protests in mid-November—in an effort to appease the protesters, but the move was seen as too little too late.

Paris police deployed tear gas and a water cannon as yellow-vested protesters took to the streets on Saturday. (Dec. 8)

For many protesters, Mac-

ron himself, widely seen as arrogant and disconnected from rank-and-file French, has become the problem. Calls for him to resign were rampant on Saturday, the fourth weekend of large-scale protests.

"Macron is there for the rich, not for all the French," 68-year-old retiree Jean-Pierre Meunier said Saturday. Retirees are among the categories to be punished by his policies.

Labor Minister Muriel Penicaud dampened any notion that the minimum wage would be raised, telling LCI that "there will be no boost for the Smic (minimum wage)," because "it destroys jobs."

Paris tourist sites reopened Sunday, while workers cleaned up debris from protests that left widespread damage in the capital and elsewhere. At least 71 were injured in Paris on Saturday.

LONDON (AP)—With a crucial parliamentary vote on Brexit looming, British Prime Minister Theresa May warned lawmakers Sunday that they could take Britain into "uncharted waters" and trigger a general election if they reject the divorce deal she struck with the European Union.

May is fighting to save her unpopular Brexit plan and her job ahead of a showdown in Parliament on Tuesday, when lawmakers are widely expected to vote down the deal she negotiated with Brussels. Her Downing Street office insisted that the vote will go ahead despite speculation that the government may be forced to delay it.

A defeat in the vote could see Britain crashing out of the EU on March 29, the date for

Britain's exit, with no deal in place—an outcome that could spell economic chaos.

In an interview with the Mail on Sunday, May said nixing her deal would "mean grave uncertainty for the nation with a very real risk of no Brexit or leaving the European Union with no deal."

"When I say if this deal does not pass we would truly be in uncharted waters, I hope people understand this is what I genuinely believe and fear could happen," she said.

May's government does not have a majority in the House of Commons, and opposition parties—as well as many of May's own Conservatives—have already said they will not back the divorce deal that May and EU leaders agreed on last month.

Pro-Brexit lawmakers say the deal keeps Britain bound too closely to the EU, while pro-EU politicians say it erects barriers between the U.K. and its biggest trading partner and leaves many details of the future relationship undecided.

The main sticking point is a "backstop" provision in the Brexit agreement that aims to guarantee an open border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland post-Brexit.

The temporary measure would keep Britain under EU customs rules, and is supposed to last until superseded by permanent new trade arrangements. But critics say it could leave Britain tied to the EU indefinitely, unable to strike new trade deals around the world.

Focus



Hunger, lice, filth: Moroccan camp shows migrant challenges

A sub-Saharan migrant shows injuries he sustained while trying to scale the Ceuta fence, at Ouled Ziane camp in Casablanca, Morocco, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018. As Morocco prepares to host the signing of a landmark global migration agreement next week, hundreds of migrants are languishing in a Casablanca camp rife with hunger, misery and unsanitary conditions. These sub-Saharan Africans who dream of going to Europe are a symbol of the problems world dignitaries are trying to address with the U.N.'s first migration compact. AP

By AMIRA EL MASAIDI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP)—As Morocco prepares to host the signing of a landmark global migration agreement, hundreds of migrants are languishing in a Casablanca camp rife with hunger, misery, lice and filth.

These sub-Saharan Africans who dream of going to Europe are a symbol of the problems world dignitaries are trying to address with the U.N.'s first migration compact, being finalized at a conference in Marrakech on Monday and Tuesday.

Rising numbers of migrants live in the makeshift camp that sprung up on a soccer field near a busy Casablanca bus station, where they are bedded down under tents or shacks built from plastic and wood.

Scant food, a lack of heat and no sanitation are the main worries at the Ouled Ziane camp, as lice and respiratory infections are becoming endemic.

Morocco embodies multi-

ple dilemmas facing the countries meeting in Marrakech: It's a major source of Europe's migrants but is also a transit country as well as a migrant host for other Africans fleeing poverty and persecution.

The 34-page U.N. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is to be formally approved in Marrakech, Morocco, on Dec. 10-11. But the United States and several European countries have said they won't sign on.

The Ouled Ziane camp houses African migrants seeking to reach Europe via the western Mediterranean route to Spain after crackdowns by Italy and Malta have slowed smuggling traffic in the eastern Mediterranean. Many of the migrants have already tried the journey north to Morocco's border with Spain, only to be pushed away by Moroccan police, sometimes violently.

In the meantime they look for work in Casablanca, hoping to earn enough to pay smugglers to try once again.

New arrivals at the Casablanca camp came after clash-

ing violently with Moroccan border agents as they tried to scale the fence separating Morocco from Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta.

"I am only here to recover. I come and go," said 19-year-old Guinean Ibrahim Bah, who arrived days ago with open wounds on his wrists, arms and back.

"Moroccan forces caught us and beat us. They broke one of my friend's arms, handcuffed us and crammed us on a bus. This time they dropped us in Casablanca but usually they take us far to the south," he said.

Government officials didn't respond to requests for comment on inhumane treatment of migrants or the Casablanca camp, but Morocco's government describes the country's migration policy as "exemplary." That mostly refers to reforms launched in 2014, largely funded by the EU, to encourage migrants to stay in Morocco.

More than 23,096 migrants have been given Moroccan residency since 2014 and the

authorities are currently processing about 25,000 other applications.

Still, more than 6,500 Sub-Saharan migrants and refugees were arrested and pushed back on buses to southern Morocco or toward Algeria between July and September 2018, according to an anti-racist group Gadem.

Other migrants in the Ouled Ziane camp had just walked over 100 hours from Tiznit, a town in Morocco's far south where they had been deported to.

"The precarious journey is never over. It's constant fear. You walk in the street, you get arrested. You go to the mosque, you are arrested. We feel like criminals," said Jiane Jbrahima, a 22-year-old from Senegal.

Jbrahima lived for five years in Tangiers before undergoing, along with thousands of migrants, what Amnesty International describes as a "large-scale crackdown on thousands of sub-Saharan migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees" by Morocco.

Migrants arrested in the

north are at times held for several days in two Tangiers police stations before buses bring them back to the south. These detentions are "wholly arbitrary and legally unsubstantiated," as "no one was brought before a judge at any stage," says Gadem.

A Spanish activist working in Morocco, Helena Maleno, says the EU-supported Moroccan regularization policy would work if it brought about real change in terms of providing migrants work and access to health care.

"The initiative is good on itself, but it does so little to change the hard reality of migrants, mostly because it's not really targeted to provide assistance for them but rather to please the EU and keep migrants from reaching Europe," she said.

Rising numbers of migrants taking the Morocco-Spain route to Europe have turned Morocco into the main entry point for sub-Saharan African migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees" by Morocco.

kingdom.

The EU agreed this summer to give Morocco \$275 million to halt flows of illegal migrants, "pushing the country to take a more violent approach in stopping migrants from reaching Europe," says Maleno.

This year, Morocco stopped 68,000 illegal migration attempts, according to government spokesman Mustapha El Khelfi.

Concerned by rumors of an upcoming deportation campaign, migrants in Casablanca camp spend most of their time in their ragged tents, smoking cannabis and talking about the psychological scars from years of uncertainty.

"I listen to the radio and the news says that it's good for us here. I wonder if they're oblivious to what is going on or simply they think we're idiots," said Mohamed Rafiou Barry, 22, from Guinea. "Even if 40 years pass, I'll never forget being taken from one bus to another, beaten, eating from garbage. You don't forget those things."

Overdrive



AUTO REVIEW

The 2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt honors the 50th anniversary of the movie starring Steve McQueen with a limited-edition, two-year model run of a boosted Mustang that makes 20-horsepower more than the GT, features a cueball shifter and has an active damping suspension. Pictured on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

TNS

2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt: Better, faster, more

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

If the more than 100 new vehicles I've driven this year, the 2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt might be my favorite. I wish I could leave it at that, then channel some Steve McQueen icy blue stare and you'd just accept its greatness as truth and we could all do our own high-speed stunts while chasing two hit men in a Dodge Charger on the hills in and around San Francisco.

But that was then and that was questionable and this is now and this is certain: The 50th anniversary edition of the infamous Mustang with the legendary car chase from a movie that doesn't quite stand the test of time is outstanding. And at just over \$50,000, or about \$3,000 more than a similarly equipped GT with Performance Package 1, the Bullitt with a planned two-year production run is kind of a deal.

The McStang comes in dark highland green (shadow black is an option, if you don't care for heritage or verisimilitude) with subtle chrome accents and has red six-caliper Brembo brakes flexing behind 19-inch, five-spoke aluminum wheels wrapped in Michelin PS4 summer tires (more on that in a bit). The grille is blacked out so there is no Mustang, and the only Bullitt iconography is a round target on the trunk and the fuel cap.

There is some modest badging inside, including a Bullitt welcome screen on start up, a fake aluminum dash piece and a Bullitt steer-

ing wheel center. Even the most significant upgrade is subtle: The 5.0-liter V-8 gets a 20 horsepower boost over the GT to 480 horsepower, which lifts top speed 8 mph to 163 mph, thanks in part to some engineering tweaks from the GT350. It can hit 60 mph in 4 about seconds, according to some outlets, which is the same as the GT.

It might be difficult to tell the horsepower difference, even on

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt at a glance

Vehicle type:	Pony car
Base price:	\$46,595
As tested:	\$50,390 (excluding \$900 delivery)
Mpg:	15 city, 24 highway, 18 comb.
Engine:	480-horsepower 5-liter V-8
Transmission:	Six-speed manual
Competitive rank:	Bullitt Mustang, Chevy Camaro 2SS, Ford Mustang GT, Dodge Challenger

a track, but there's no mistaking the six-speed manual with the cue-ball shifter. It's the only transmission offered, so that 10-speed automatic will have to go to the millennials and the parents who failed them.

So what's to love? Let's start with the cue-ball shifter. It's like holding a sorcerer's orb of power. Leave the palm on it while cruising and it's relaxing, like some oddly satisfying stress ball. But then there's something about powering through the gears that is both curved and firm, feminine and masculine, graceful and powerful.

And the sound. How sweet the sound. Active valve performance exhaust is the same as the GT and still worth a paragraph. It uses butterfly valves in one of the dual twin exhaust pipes to modulate sound in four different settings. Normal mode plugs in the amp; track mode takes it to 11. Rev the engine up to 7,400 rpm and the high gear range means you can keep it in third while climbing into triple-digit speed. As the scenery flicks by with increasing speed, the V-8 soundtrack in the cabin intensifies. Your chest thrums because the heart has finally met its match.

But there is also quiet mode, which tames the wild warble so you can drop off the kids at school or slip out of the subdivision on a Sunday morning without announcing to the world your intentions. This dynamism and respect to a world whose majority doesn't much sing the siren song of the V-8 applies to active rev matching as well. On the track, active rev matching blips the throttle in downshifts so the engine doesn't jump and the car lurches; the driver need not have to heel and toe it; on the street, active rev matching can elicit glares from every pedestrian who suspects you of foolishly revving the engine into a stop.

In the Mustang's excellent 12-inch LCD instrument cluster, there is a button to shut it off. That cluster can also be reconfigured for different views to correspond with different modes, from snow/ice to track mode. With the advanced driver assistance systems with navigation and cross-traffic alert as part of the electronics package

(\$2,100), the steering wheel can feel a bit overwhelmed with buttons. But it, along with exceptional voice commands, minimizes the need to hit the small touch screen with the narrow buttons.

Even though the Mustang can fit two stunned kids in the back, it doesn't have the classic muscle car size of the Challenger, nor does it have that whole retro vibe. Despite the 50-year-old references, Bullitt drives like a thoroughly modern sports car and has all the tech that comes with it. The Camaro probably is quicker, more powerful and better composed, but Bullitt Mustang looks better than them both, even without the Bullitt name. It's just cool.

But those PS4 tires shouldn't be used when it's cold, or during our season's first snowfall, which totaled 12 inches. Everyone knows this. Everyone should also know that even in better conditions, the 420 pound-feet of torque on the rear wheels can make it buck and wag. Don't floor it from a stop entering a turn. It's not the car that needs taming, but the driver who needs to be tamed from slamming the pedal in response to the primal call from the engine.

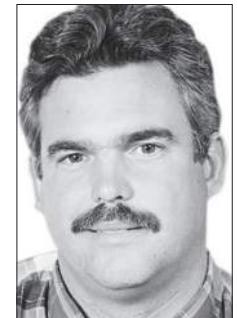
But, on the track, in the snow, during the commute, our love for this special Mustang never faded. If only we could say the same for the movie that inspired it.

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UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



Fixing conductive stripes in defogger system

Q My rear window has a strip of glass that doesn't defrost like the rest of the window. It bugs me because it's right in my view behind the car. What can be done to fix this?

—Irlinda M.

A It sounds like one of the slender printed conductive stripes on your rear glass has been scratched, severing its electrical conductivity. It's possible, using a Permatex 09117 Complete Rear Window Defogger Repair Kit or similar, to repair a broken spot in these stripes. If careful visual inspection doesn't indicate the point of breakage, an inexpensive multimeter can be used to identify the exact location.

With the window defogger turned on and the multimeter set to DC volts 20, connect the black meter lead to bare metal on the body, such as a door latch striker. Then gently touch the red lead tip to each stripe, one at a time, near the center of the glass. A functioning stripe will indicate roughly half of the vehicle's system voltage—about 6V. This is because the stripes are long resistors and drop voltage along their length, from the source side (12V) to the ground side (0V). If you find a stripe that reads either 12ish or zero near the center, you've found the bad one!

Next, move gently left or right, probing that stripe, until the voltage abruptly changes. Search for the exact spot where you find 12ish in one place, and zero right next to it—this is the break! A full voltage drop in one place occurs because current isn't flowing through that circuit. Apply a piece of tape directly above or below to mark the spot and break out the kit.

The kit consists of instructions, a cleaning pad, stencil, a slender brush and a bottle of conductive paint to apply over the scratched stripe. Also included are materials to re-bond a broken wire tab, if needed. You may find firmly applying your own pieces of tape may more accurately match the width of the stripe, and the paint color may not match exactly. Also, if sufficient thickness isn't built up (three coats are recommended) the repair spot will heat a bit more than the rest of the stripe, defrosting a little sooner than elsewhere. If applied carefully the repair will work and is only slightly noticeable.

Q How often should brake fluid be replaced? It's not listed in my maintenance schedule. My oil change guys are trying to sell this!

—Zach T.

A This is an interesting topic, as some manufacturers are all over this, requiring fluid replacement every two or three years, or by mileage such as 30,000 or 45,000, while others imply it's never needed! Brake fluid lives in a fairly sealed environment, but by its nature absorbs moisture, and its fluid additives break down over time. Moisture buildup lowers the boiling point of the fluid, leading to possible high temperature braking loss, and coupled with additive losses, encourages corrosion and gunking of some potentially expensive ABS parts.

Brake fluid typically darkens in color with age, from either clear or honey color to a deeper brown, but this isn't a reliable indicator of true condition. Test strips are available to check both moisture and copper content; the latter is an excellent indicator of fluid additive depletion and system corrosion. As you found, quick lube shops may also check condition for you in the hopes of selling a flush. I flush/replace fluid on my vehicles every three or four years even though it's not listed in the book. ABS systems can complicate fluid replacement, often times requiring the use of a scan tool to shuttle various valves in the right way to pass fluid through.

Life & Style

Lamar leads Grammy noms, where women make a comeback

NEW YORK (AP)—The music of “Black Panther,” with Kendrick Lamar in its starring role, officially owns the 2019 Grammy Awards, where women are heavily represented in the major four categories following a year where their presence was barely felt.

The Recording Academy announced Friday that Lamar is the top contender with eight nominations, including seven for his musical companion to the Marvel Studios juggernaut starring Chadwick Boseman and Michael B. Jordan. “Black Panther: The Album, Music From and Inspired By” is up for album of the year, a category where women make up five of the eight nominees. Cardi B, Kacey Musgraves, Janelle Monae, H.E.R. and Brandi Carlile also are up for the top prize, along with Drake and Post Malone.

The upcoming Grammys is the first where the academy extended its top four categories from five nominees to eight.

The “Panther” nomination would give Lamar a chance to win album of the year after losing three times. His most recent loss was in February when his critically acclaimed “DAMN” fell short to Bruno Mars’ “24K Magic,” though Lamar’s project would go on to win a Pulitzer Prize for music two months later, making him the first non-classical or jazz artist to win the prestigious honor.

Lamar’s Top 10 hit, the SZA-assisted “All the Stars,” is nominated for both record and song of the year (a songwriter’s award). Five other songs scored nominations in both categories, including Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper’s “Shallow” from “A Star Is Born”; Childish Gambino’s “This Is America”; Drake’s “God’s Plan”; Zedd, Maren Morris and Grey’s “The Middle”; and Carlile’s “The Joke.”

Ella Mai’s “Boo’d Up” and Shawn Mendes’ “In My Blood” earned song of the year nods, while Post Malone’s “Rockstar” and Cardi B’s “I Like It,” featuring Bad Bunny and J Balvin, round out the nominees for record of the year.

Following Lamar, Drake—the year’s most successful artist—earned

seven nominations. Though nominated for album of the year, he was surprisingly shut out of best rap album, where his rival Pusha T earned a nomination.

Drake’s frequent collaborator, producer Boi-1Da, earned six nods, as did Carlile, who also scored nominations in the American Roots category.

Cardi B, Gaga, H.E.R., Morris, Gambino, producer Sounwave and engineer Mike Bozzi scored five nominations each.

The nominees for the 2019 Grammys mark a departure from this year’s show, where women were underrepresented in the top four categories. Of the eight best new artist nominees, six are women, including H.E.R., Chloe x Halle, Dua Lipa, Margo Price, Bebe Rexha and Jorja Smith. Rock band Greta Van Fleet and country singer Luke Combs also earned nominations.

Recording Academy CEO Neil Portnow was criticized earlier this year at the Grammys when he said women need to “step up” when asked about the lack of women in the top categories, which he later acknowledged was a “poor choice of words.” It forced the academy to launch a new task force focused on inclusion and diversity; Portnow also announced he would

be leaving the academy in 2019.

“In any given year there could be more folks from one area or one gender or one genre or one ethnicity that are making recordings and being successful with them than in another year. So, in many ways we’re just a reflection of that,” Portnow said in an interview with The Associated Press. “This year clearly there were many women not only making music but making great music and making music that resonates with our peer

voters in terms of excellence, and so that certainly is at the forefront.”

Another milestone for

women is in the non-classical producer of the year category, where songwriting extraordinaire Linda Perry earned a nomination. She’s just the seventh woman ever nominated for prize and first since 2004.

“Linda represents what we hope becomes the norm, which is the elimination of gender bias in producing and engineering in our industry,” Portnow said.

Perry will compete with Pharrell Williams, Boi-1Da, Larry Klein and Kanye West, the only nomination he earned.

Taylor Swift, a two-time album of the year winner, also only earned one nomination—her “reputation” album is up best pop vocal album. Justin Timberlake, whose “Man of the Woods” albums flopped earlier this year, picked up a nod for “Say Something,” his collaboration with Chris Stapleton.

Beyoncé and Jay-Z, billed as The Carters, as well Ariana Grande, didn’t earn any of the big nominations. The Carters earned two nods in the R&B category along with best music video, while Grande picked up two nods in pop.

Artists who were completely snubbed include Carrie Underwood, Sam Smith, Migos, Kane

Brown, Nicki Minaj, XXXTentacion and Juice WRLD, whose “Lucid Dreams” was one of the year’s biggest hits.

Some acts scored their first nominations ever, including Florida Georgia Line, whose megahit “Meant to Be” with Rexha is up best country duo/group performance. Camila Cabello, Malone, Mendes, Dan + Shay and DJ Mustard are also first-time nominees.

Gaga, who earned acting and music Golden Globe nominations Thursday, picked up four Grammy nominations for “Shallow,” while “Joanne” is up for best pop solo performance. The soundtrack for “A Star Is Born” was released after Grammy eligibility, though “Shallow” was released in time and also earned Cooper two nominations.

Other famous faces outside of music to earn nominations include Tiffany Haddish and former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, both up for best spoken word album. Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Fred Armisen, Jim Gaffigan and Patton Oswalt are up for best comedy album.

Mac Miller, who died in September, earned a nomination for best rap album with “Swimming.” Chris Cornell, who died last year, is up for best rock performance with “When Bad Does Good.”

Demi Lovato, who relapsed after six years of sobriety and was hospitalized for an overdose in July, earned a nomination for best pop duo/group performance for “Fall In Line,” her duet with Christina Aguilera.

Those who earned four nominations are Musgraves, Malone, PJ Morton, Dave Cobb, Ludwig Goransson, Noah Shebib and SZA, who earned a Golden Globe nomination alongside Lamar for “All the Stars” on Thursday.

Lamar has won 12 Grammys throughout his career. Though seven of his eight nominations come from “Black Panther,” he also earned a nod for co-writing Jay Rock’s “Win,” up for best rap song.

The 2019 Grammys will hand out awards in its 84 categories live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 10, 2019.



In this July 7, 2017, file photo, Kendrick Lamar performs during the Festival d'ete de Quebec in Quebec City, Canada. AP

After a year full of tears, Ariana Grande comes out on top

NEW YORK (AP)—Ariana Grande capped off a successful year as a pop star—but a trying one as a maturing young woman—at the 13th annual Billboard Women in Music event, where she was named Woman of the Year.

The 25-year-old singer was teary-eyed at times during her acceptance speech as she reflected on her year, which included the end of her relationship with comedian-actor Pete Davidson and the death of her former boyfriend, the rapper Mac Miller. Last year,

a bombing at her concert in Manchester, England killed 22 people.

“I want to say that I find it interesting that this has been one of the best years in my career and like the worst of my life,” she told the audience in New York City at Pier 36 on Thursday. “I feel like a lot of people would look at someone in my position right now, I guess, like Woman of the Year, an artist that could be at her peak ... and think, ‘She’s really got her (stuff) together. She’s really on it. She’s got

it all.’ And I do, but as far as my personal life goes, I really have no idea what the (expletive) I am doing.”

“It’s been a very conflicting one,” she added. “I just want to say if you’re someone out there who has no idea what this next chapter is going to bring, you’re not alone in that.”

Grande’s successful year included another No. 1 album with “Sweetener” as well as multiple hits, from “No Tears Left to Cry” to “God Is a Woman” to “Breathin.” She sang “Thank U, Next”—

her first No. 1 smash on Billboard’s Hot 100 chart—in front of the audience including Alicia Keys, Dua Lipa, music executives and honorees like Cyndi Lauper and Janelle Monae.

Patti LaBelle praised Grande for her strong vocal ability before handing her the award, and the night was full of similar moments as women uplifted one another.

Country singer Kacey Musgraves kicked off the event with a soft performance and won the Innovator Award.

Monae, who came out as pansexual this year, received the Trailblazer Award and said a fan recently told her that listening to her album, “Dirty Computer,” encouraged her to come out to her family.

“I think moments like those, they remind you no matter what’s going in your life, how bad you feel, that by us walking in our truths, it can sometimes give the next person the courage to walk in theirs,” Monae said.

British singer Ellie Goulding hosted the two-hour event, where Lauper was given the Icon Award and was hon-

ored by Emmy-nominated performer Tituss Burgess, who wonderfully sang “True Colors.” R&B singer SZA, who was the most nominated woman at this year’s Grammy Awards, received the Rule Breaker Award, while pop singer Hayley Kiyoko performed her upbeat song “Curious” and earned the Rising Star Award.

“I’m going to be crying this whole time. This is my first time getting an award onstage,” Kiyoko said as the audience got out of their seats to cheer her on. “I’m trying to be professional.”



This image released by Netflix shows Yalitza Aparicio, center, in a scene from the film "Roma," by filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón. AP

LA Film Critics name 'Roma' best film of the year

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Film Critics Association on Sunday named Alfonso Cuarón's deeply personal drama "Roma" best film of the year, adding to the acclaimed film's steadily mounting honors.

Cuarón's black-and-white film, a Netflix release, has been cleaning up many of the top prizes of awards season. It won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival and likewise topped the New York Film Critics Circle. "Roma" is widely expected to land Netflix its first best-picture nomination at the Academy Awards.

The Los Angeles critics, which announced their awards on Twitter, also awarded best cinematography to Cuarón. But it notably

deviated from the "Roma" drumbeat in the directing category. Instead, Debra Granik ("Winter's Bone") was named best director for her off-the-grid father-daughter drama "Leave No Trace."

Critics groups can influence the larger Oscars race, which has thus far struggled to elevate a likely female filmmaker contender, a sore point for some considering the wealth of options (including Chloe Zhao for "The Rider" and Marielle Heller for "Can You Ever Forgive Me?") and the historic male dominance of the category. On Thursday, the Golden Globes named an all-male field of directing nominees for the fourth time in a row, a record that has drawn increasing criticism.

The LA critics named Olivia Colman ("The Favourite") best actress and Ethan Hawke ("First Reformed") best actor. Hawke was also the New York critics' choice and the winner at last month's Gotham Film Awards.

Best supporting actor went to Steven Yeun for Lee Chang-dong's existential thriller "Burning," which was also the group's runner-up for best film. Taking best supporting actress was Regina King for Barry Jenkins' James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk."

The critics also named Sandi Tan's "Shirkers" best documentary, the upcoming comic-book adaptation "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" best animated film and Nicole

Holofcener and Jeff Whitty's script to "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" best screenplay. Other winners included Nicholas Britell for his score to "If Beale Street Could Talk," Hannah Beachler for the production design on "Black Panther" and Joshua Altman and Bing Liu for editing "Minding the Gap," the documentary about friends in a small Rust Belt town in Illinois.

The critics will hand out their awards in a ceremony on Jan. 12. They will also honor Japanese filmmaker and animator Hayao Miyazaki—co-founder of Studio Ghibli and the maker of animated classics like "Howl's Moving Castle" and "My Neighbor Totoro"—with their career achievement award.

Judge: Cardi B must not contact strip club melee victims

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B must not contact, in person or through social media, the victims of a melee she was involved in at a New York strip club, a judge ordered Friday.

The platinum rapper appeared in court in New York City after a summons was issued Oct. 1 for misdemeanor reckless endangerment and assault.

Her lawyer has said she didn't harm anybody.

Police said Cardi B and her entourage were at the club around 3 a.m. when she argued with a 23-year-old bartender. They say a fight broke out during which chairs, bottles and hookah pipes were thrown, slightly injuring the woman and another employee.

Cardi B's "Invasion of Privacy" is among the nominees

announced Friday for the 2019 Grammy Awards' album of the year. The 26-year-old scored a total of five nominations.

The rapper learned of the nominations from reporters who shouted questions as she left the courtroom. She later posted on Twitter, "This is not how I expect to find out I'm nominated for a Grammy. I need a do over."

She appeared in court wearing long rainbow hair and Christian Louboutin boots—the "red bottoms" she bragged about in her hit "Bodak Yellow"—along with a floppy hat and a fur-trimmed jacket. She did not speak as she left the courthouse amid a mad media scramble and got into a black Escalade with darkened windows.

Rapper Cardi B appeared

in court Friday after a summons was issued on Oct. 1 for misdemeanor recklessness and assault. A judge issued orders of protection against the rapper in a case involving a melee at a New York strip club. (Dec. 7)

Queens Assistant District Attorney Ryan Nicolosi asked for bail of \$2,500, "as the defendant appears to come when it's most convenient for her," a reference to a previous missed court appearance. The judge declined to set bail. Her next court date is Jan. 31.

Investigators were exploring whether the fracas involved a romantic dispute.

Cardi B, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, said recently on Instagram that things weren't working out between her and fellow rap-

per Offset, though they're still good friends and business partners. The couple got married in September 2017 and welcomed a baby girl in July.

The strip club incident occurred about three weeks after Cardi B and Nicki Minaj were involved in an altercation that got physical at a New York Fashion Week party.

Video that circulated on social media showed Cardi B lunging toward someone and being held back at the Harper's Bazaar Icons party. Another video showed Cardi B being escorted out of the event by security.

Cardi B, her feet bare beneath a voluminous red Dolce & Gabbana gown, was seen leaving the party with what appeared to be a bump on her head.

'Ralph' tops box office again, 'Aquaman' is a hit in China

NEW YORK (AP)—In the calm before the Christmas storm at the box office, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" remained No. 1 for the third straight week, while the upcoming DC Comics superhero film "Aquaman" arrived with a cannonball-sized splash in Chinese theaters.

For the second week in a row, no new wide releases opened in North American theaters, allowing Disney's animated sequel to again lead domestic ticket sales with \$16.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The top six films at the box office were all unchanged. Universal's "The Grinch," still a major draw in its fifth weekend, trailed in second with \$15.2 million.

But the weekend's biggest new arrival was in China, where Warner Bros.' "Aquaman" debuted with \$93.6 million in ticket sales. That marked a new opening-weekend record for both Warner Bros. and DC in China. Considering the checkered recent history of DC films ("Justice League," "Suicide Squad"), the big launch in China was a promising sign for the spinoff starring Jason Momoa.

"Adding to the success of 'Wonder Woman,' this is a really solid performance and portends big numbers for North America in two weeks when it opens," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "This is a movie, along with 'Mary Poppins Returns' and 'Bumblebee' and other movies, that's going to give December that boost that a 'Star Wars' movie would give us."

"Aquaman" will expand to 40 international countries next week and arrive in North American theaters Dec. 21.

"Aquaman" wasn't the only big-budget holiday season release receiving a lift this week. Paramount's "Transformers" prequel "Bumblebee" played a one-night sneak preview in 326 theaters nationwide ahead of its Dec. 21 release.

Paramount declined to share ticket figures but domestic distribution chief Kyle Davies said theaters were mostly sold out.

Perhaps more importantly, the film directed by Travis Knight and starring Hailee Steinfeld aided its word of mouth with largely glowing reviews—a rarity for the "Transformers" franchise.

Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns," due out Dec. 19, also helped its cause with four Golden Globe nominations Thursday, including best picture, comedy or musical, and acting nods for Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

The feel-good interracial road trip period tale "Green Book" fared even better at the Globes (five nominations, including best picture, comedy or musical, and acting nods for Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen) and had good results at the box office to show for it. In its fourth week of release, "Green Book" held with a rare 0 percent drop, earning \$3.9 million in 1,181 theaters. It has grossed \$20 million in total.

Yorgos Lanthimos' comic period drama "The Favourite" continued to pick up steam. The acclaimed Fox Searchlight release, starring Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz, expanded into 91 theaters over the weekend to gross \$1.4 million (\$15,000 per theater).

A more traditional royal drama, "Mary Queen of Scots," also opened strongly

1. "Ralph Breaks the Internet," \$16.1 million.
2. "The Grinch," \$15.2 million (\$25.9 million international).
3. "Creed II," \$10.3 million (\$5.2 million international).
4. "Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald," \$6.8 million (\$22 million international).
5. "Bohemian Rhapsody," \$6 million (\$29.2 million international).
6. "Instant Family," \$5.6 million (\$1.7 million international).
7. "Green Book," \$3.9 million.
8. "Robin Hood," \$3.6 million (\$7.5 million international).
9. "Possession of Hannah Grace," \$3.2 million (\$4.8 million international).
10. "Widows," \$3.1 million (\$4.5 million international).

in limited release. The Focus Features title, starring Saoirse Ronan as Mary Stuart and Margot Robbie as Elizabeth I, debuted in four theaters with a robust \$50,045 per-theater average.

Lis Bunnell, president of distribution for Focus, said the film's modern spin "made it resonate with audiences in a powerful way paralleling so much of what is still going on today for women."

Also opening in limited release were "Ben Is Back," the family addiction drama with Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges (a \$20,243 per-theater average in four theaters), and the caustic pop music critique "Vox Lux," with Natalie Portman (a \$27,000 per-theater average in six theaters).

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List," Universal re-released the Holocaust epic in 1,029 theaters. But it failed to turn out large crowds, grossing a modest \$551,000.

Ex-Miss Kentucky charged with sending nude photos to student

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—A former Miss Kentucky who is a teacher in West Virginia has been charged

with sending nude pictures to a 15-year-old former student.

News outlets report that 28-year-old Ramsey Bearse

Kanye West surprises crowd honoring late rapper XXXTentacion

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Kanye West surprised fans at a tribute honoring the late rapper XXXTentacion during Art Basel, jumping onstage to perform a brand new song that features West and the rapper who was gunned down in Florida earlier this year.

During the Thursday night release party for XXXTentacion's first posthumous album "Skins" at the RC Cola Plant, the entire album was initially played all the way through.

When it played a second time, West abruptly walked onstage to perform "One-Minute"

and the audience roared. An animated video for the song also played in the background.

West also briefly brought the late rapper's mother, Cleopatra Bernard, onstage.

Several other rappers, including Lil Wayne, Trippie Redd and PNB Rock, also paid tribute to the young rapper.

Wayne gave an emotional performance of their song "Don't Cry" and the crowd sang XXXTentacion's part. Many in the audience were teary.

The 20-year-old rap star, whose real name was Jahseh Onfroy, was fatally shot as he

left a motorcycle dealership in June. Officials said a struggle ensued when the rapper's sports car was blocked by another vehicle, two masked gunmen approached and shot XXXTentacion (ex-ex-exten-ta-see-YAWN) multiple times. The gunmen fled with a Louis Vuitton bag containing \$50,000.

XXXTentacion, who sported dreadlocks and facial tattoos, was a platinum-selling rising star who tackled issues including prejudice and depression in his songs. He also drew criticism over bad behavior and multiple arrests, including charges that he severely beat and abused his girlfriend.

His music got a mega boost after his death.

His album was one of the top five most streamed on Apple Music in 2018 and his song "Sad!" was the second most-streamed song on Spotify this year.

His manager Solomon Sodade described Thursday's album release as a "triumphant" evening for longtime fans to "see their hero on a major scale accepted as the pop superstar that he is."

The 20-year-old rap star, whose real name was Jahseh Onfroy, was fatally shot as he

Author Jon Krakauer sues over adaptation of 'Into the Wild'

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Author Jon Krakauer has filed suit over a musical adaptation of his 1996 book "Into the Wild."

The Boulder Daily Camera reported Friday Krakauer originally agreed to let playwrights Nikos Tsakalacos and Janet Alldard use his name and the book title but changed his mind be-

cause he objected to their script.

The lawsuit asks a judge to stop the playwrights from using his name and the title. His attorneys say the agreement allows him to withdraw permission.

The lawsuit was filed Nov. 30 in state court in Boulder, where Krakauer lives.

The newspaper says the



In this Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014 file photo, Miss Kentucky Ramsey Carpenter participates in the Miss America Shoe Parade at the Atlantic City boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J. AP

was arrested Friday and charged with four felony counts of distributing or displaying obscene matter to a minor.

A criminal complaint says the student's parent informed authorities of lewd pictures sent by Bearse that were found on the teenager's phone. The

unidentified parent said Bearse had been the boy's teacher during part of his time at Andrew Jackson Middle School in Cross Lanes.

Authorities say Bearse admitted to sending the nude photos on Snapchat. It's unclear whether she has an attorney.

A spokesman for Kanawha County Schools declined to comment but confirmed that Bearse was a teacher at the school.

Under her maiden name of Carpenter, Bearse was crowned Miss Kentucky in 2014.

Turkey displays ancient mosaics returned from US

Turkey has put on display Roman-era mosaics that were part of a U.S. university's art collection and were returned to the country more than half a century after looters smuggled them out.

At a ceremony on Saturday,

Culture Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy thanked Ohio's Bowling Green State University administrators and others who were instrumental in the return of the artifacts, which are believed to have come from the ancient

city of Zeugma in Turkey's southern Gaziantep province.

Bowling Green bought the 12 mosaics from a New York gallery in 1965. Turkish and Bowling Green officials agreed upon their return in May.

U.S. Embassy diplomat Jeffrey Hovenier said: "We are delighted to welcome home part of Turkey's glorious heritage."

The mosaics are being exhibited at Gaziantep's Zeugma Mosaic Museum. (AP)

Items belonging to Sinatra make \$9M hit at Sotheby's auction

NEW YORK (AP)—The private treasures of Frank Sinatra and his wife, Barbara, were a multimillion-dollar hit at auction.

Sotheby's reported Friday that the couple's entertainment memorabilia, art, jewelry, books and other personal items sold for \$9.2 million—about twice their pre-sale estimates.

Nine paintings by the legendary crooner went for more than \$850,000, against a high

estimate of \$120,000.

The 20-carat diamond engagement ring Sinatra presented to his fiancee in a glass of champagne fetched nearly \$1.7 million, surpassing a top

\$1.5 million estimate.

And a Jewish skullcap with Frank's name embroidered on it shot past a high estimate of \$500, selling for more than \$9,000.

Some of the proceeds will benefit the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center in Rancho Mirage, California, which counsels victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.



In this July 11, 1996, file photo, Frank Sinatra, left, and his wife Barbara arrive at Our Lady of Malibu church to renew their wedding vows on their 20th wedding anniversary in Malibu, Calif. AP

Kids are never out of mom's sight with their grandparents

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have three wonderful grandchildren who live with our daughter and son-in-law in another state. Our daughter will not allow us to take the children out to lunch, shopping, for ice cream or anywhere without the parents coming with us.

The kids are 7 and 3-year-old twins. When we are in the house playing on the floor with them, our daughter is right there with us. When we go outside to play, she is also there watching.

When I have asked her why she won't let us take the children out, she makes up different excuses, including saying she's overprotective. This makes me and my husband very sad. We are not treated like normal grandparents. What do you suggest we do?

DISGRUNTLED GRANDPARENT

DEAR DISGRUNTLED: Not knowing your daughter, I can't guess why she appears to be so possessive of the grandchildren. However, while I agree that what's going on isn't "normal," you might be less unhappy if you focus on being grateful that you are able to interact with your grandchildren. It is beneficial for them to spend time with you and know that you love them. Not all grandparents and grandchildren are as fortunate.

P.S. As the kids get older, Mom's need to supervise your visits may subside.

DEAR ABBY: My mother, who lives paycheck to pay-

check, has recently become good friends with "Rhonda," who is wealthy due to inherited money. They frequently go out to eat or on other excursions together, and Mom expects her friend to foot the bill. Rhonda, however, usually pays only for herself and expects Mom to pay her own way. It has made Mom angry enough to complain to me.

I told my mom that it's presumptuous of her to expect Rhonda to always pay. While it would be generous of her to pay for Mom too, I think the woman is allowed to do what she wants with her money. Mom says no, I'm wrong, and "those who have more should always be willing to pay for those who have less." What do you think?

COMPLAINING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR COMPLAINING: I think that your mother's friendship with Rhonda may be nearing its end. I also think that because there is such a discrepancy in the amount of discretionary income your mother and her friend have, your mother should inform Rhonda that as much as she might like to frequently accompany her, financial reality prevents it. Alternatively, they could do something together that doesn't cost as much or is free.

DEAR ABBY: I have a pet peeve—when people live, say, in Washington state, and they say, "Are you going up to California?" or "I have a friend coming down from California." My brother-in-law does this all the time. Is it a condition or just

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

laziness? If I correct him, he gets angry. I know I'm right, but what would you call his condition?

PEEVED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR PEEVED: I would call his condition "habit." And I would call YOUR condition a need to nitpick. Although you may be right in this case, if you want a pleasant relationship with your brother-in-law, resist the temptation. Everyone has flaws. His is a minor one.

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Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 231

NEWSPAPER

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ck on track'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

REPORTER

Sichuan Airlines resumed international flights to the CNMI and arrived at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning, carrying 255 passengers from Guangzhou, China.

The Sichuan Airlines flight came in at 3:10am and the tourists were greeted at the airport with a welcome banner by Marianas Visitors Authority staff, who also handed out shell leis.

"It was great seeing the second See TOURISM on Page 4

'Flawless': NASA craft lands on Mars after perilous journey



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Top MLB free agents, more options left

 NEW YORK
(AP)—Paul Goldschmidt and Robinson Cano have already switched teams this off-season, going to the Cardinals and Mets in major trades.

As for Manny Machado and Bryce Harper—the jewels of the free agent market—they’re still waiting.

Patrick Corbin and Josh Donaldson are already signed, but there are plenty of significant free agents still available heading into the winter meetings this week. The market appears less sluggish than a year ago, and Machado and Harper will remain focal points.

Here’s a look at the top free agents—broken down by position—who are still available. Players are listed with their most recent teams, with their ages in parentheses:

LEFT-HANDED STARTER **Dallas Keuchel, Astros (30)**

With Corbin off the board, Keuchel may be the top remaining starter on the market. He slipped a bit after his Cy Young-winning performance of 2015, but this past season was encouraging from a health standpoint. He made a career-high 34 starts and posted a 3.74 ERA.

Other options: J.A. Happ hasn’t had an ERA over 3.65 in any of the past four seasons. At 36, he’s a risky bet for a long-term deal, but he could be a helpful addition for a contender if the price is right. Drew Pomeranz had a rough 2018, but he’s still only 30 and went 17-6 two seasons ago.

LEFT-HANDED RELIEVER **Zach Britton, Yankees (30)**

The question here is: Who do you trust more, Britton or Andrew Miller? Both lefties have dealt with recent injury troubles. Britton is the younger of the two, but he has a long way to go if he’s going to return to his 2014-16 peak.

Other options: The 33-year-old Miller had a 4.24 ERA in 37 appearances this year and spent time on the disabled list. His track record remains impressive, but 2018 was not a great note to enter free agency. Oliver Perez posted a 1.39 ERA in 32 1/3 innings for Cleveland this season, but that was easily his best showing in years.

RIGHT-HANDED STARTER **Charlie Morton, Astros (35)**

Morton has a chance to cash in on two impressive years in Houston, in which he made 55 starts and went 29-10 with a 3.36 ERA. At his age, he’s not



AP
Boston Red Sox’s Mookie Betts steals second base past Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Manny Machado, left, during the first inning of Game 1 of the World Series baseball game Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018, in Boston.

kas. Teams desperate for help at third base might want to consider acquiring someone like Harrison or Cabrera and putting him there.

SHORTSTOP **Manny Machado, Dodgers (26)**

Machado obviously would also top the list of third baseman if he went back to that position, but he played mostly shortstop this year. At 26, he’s very much in his prime and coming off a stellar season in which he hit .297 with 37 home runs and 107 RBIs. He is at worst the second-best free agent available.

Other options: The well runs pretty dry here after Machado. Jose Iglesias offers slick fielding and can hit a decent number of doubles. Iglesias, Adeiny Hechavarria and Freddy Galvis haven’t turned 30 yet. Alcides Escobar offers impressive durability after playing a full 162 games in 2014, 2016 and 2017.

OUTFIELD **Bryce Harper, Nationals (26)**

Michael Brantley, Indians (31)
Andrew McCutchen, Yankees (32)

Along with Machado, Harper is the cream of this free-agent crop. Last season was a struggle at times, but he still ended up with 34 homers and 100 RBIs. Brantley enjoyed a nice rebound this year, hitting .309 with 17 home runs. McCutchen has slipped from his MVP-level peak, but he still managed to extend his streak to eight straight seasons with at least 20 homers.

Other options: A.J. Pollock hasn’t played close to a full season since 2015, but he can be a valuable center fielder when he’s in the lineup. Adam Jones and Carlos Gonzalez are intriguing but are getting into their mid-30s. Marwin Gonzalez couldn’t repeat his excellent 2017 season at the plate, but he played every position except pitcher and catcher this year.

DESIGNATED HITTER **Nelson Cruz, Mariners (38)**

Cruz is still going strong, with five straight seasons of at least 37 home runs. Seattle is undergoing an offseason overhaul after trading Cano, Edwin Diaz and James Paxton, but Cruz figures to draw interest somewhere in the American League.

an ideal long-term pick, but neither is anyone else in this group.

Other options: Lance Lynn went 10-10 with a 4.77 ERA for the Twins and Yankees this year, but he averaged over a strikeout an inning for the first time since 2012. Prior to this season, he’d never posted an ERA higher than 3.97. Trevor Cahill went 7-4 with a 3.76 ERA this year, but he made only 20 starts—and that was his most since 2013. Matt Harvey hasn’t turned 30 yet and showed some signs of rebounding during a serviceable stint with Cincinnati.

**RIGHT-HANDED
RELIEVER
Craig Kimbrel,
Red Sox (30)**

Kimbrel isn’t as dominant as he was toward the beginning of his career, but after a 42-save season for the champion Red Sox, he’s the biggest star among the available relievers.

Kimbrel turned down a qualifying offer, so his free agency has compensation attached.

Other options: Jeurys Familia did not receive a qualifying offer, and he’s a year younger than Kimbrel. There are plenty of other familiar names available too, such as David Robertson, Kelvin Herrera, Adam Ottavino, Cody Allen and Bud Norris.

CATCHER **Yasmani Grandal, Dodgers (30)**

Grandal had a difficult post-season—and he turned down a qualifying offer after the season—but it’s hard to ignore his productivity with the bat. He’s hit at least 22 homers for three years running.

Other options: All-Star Wilson Ramos was hurt for a bit last season but hit well after being traded to Philadelphia. Jonathan Lucroy’s on-base percentage plummeted to

.291 in 2018, but at age 32, he could bounce back.

FIRST BASE **Matt Adams, Cardinals (30)**

Not a terribly inspiring group at this position. Adams hit fine for the Nationals last season but batted only .158 in 27 games after returning to St. Louis.

Other options: Logan Morrison’s 38-homer season in 2017 looks like an outlier right now. He hit only 15 in 95 games this year and battled hip problems. Lucas Duda managed only 14 home runs in 107 games last season.

SECOND BASE **Brian Dozier, Dodgers (31)**

It was an uncharacteristically poor year with the bat for Dozier, but he remains the player with the most upside among a deep group of free-agent second basemen. He hit 104 hom-

ers from 2015-17.

Other options: There are plenty. DJ LeMahieu is relatively young at age 30, although his home-road splits in recent years suggest a move from Colorado could hurt his production. Daniel Murphy, Jed Lowrie and, at the older end of the spectrum, Ian Kinsler are all available. Asdrubal Cabrera and Josh Harrison get points for versatility.

THIRD BASE **Mike Moustakas, Brewers (30)**

With 66 home runs in the past two years, Moustakas stands out in a market that’s a bit underwhelming in terms of corner infielders now that Donaldson is taken.

Other options: Well ... maybe some team can convince Adrian Beltre to change his mind on retirement? Otherwise, it’s hard to say who is next on the list behind Moustakas.

Other options: Well ... maybe some team can convince Adrian Beltre to change his mind on retirement? Otherwise, it’s hard to say who is next on the list behind Moustakas.

Woods was told there was nothing in the bylaws that prevented him from serving as a player-captain, but the conversation changed in the closing stages of Tiger’s 2018 comeback, when he was made a captain’s pick for the Ryder Cup team two weeks before his victory at the Tour Championship.

US players, assistants excited to have captain Woods

NEW YORK—Tiger Woods was texting last week from Melbourne, Australia, with Davis Love III and Steve Stricker, discussing with the two former captains what Love likes to call “Team USA Golf.” Woods commented on all the moving parts and media requests in his role as leader of the 2019 U.S. Presidents Cup team—like flying to Australia immediately after the Hero World Challenge for a news conference and photo shoot.

“I’m like, ‘Aren’t you used to that?’” joked Stricker, captain of the victorious 2017 U.S. team.

The injection of Woods into the Presidents Cup next December has created an energy and global buzz to an overshadowed event that has been dominated since its inception by the United States. Having Woods as a captain, and quite possibly a playing captain, has changed not only the event’s dynamic but also Woods’ responsibilities.

As Love, a two-time Ryder Cup captain, expressed in one of his texts to Woods, “You’re a different leader now.”

Different in that Woods is the face of the event. Differ-

ent in that he could be joining Hale Irwin as the only other playing captain in Presidents Cup history. Irwin did it in 1994, the year Tiger graduated from high school.

Whether it was back home at the QBE Shootout in Florida, or at storied Royal Melbourne, the talk was about what Tiger brings to the U.S. side, in the team room as a strategist and motivator and out on the course as a potential participant.

Woods becoming a U.S. captain was an idea that began bubbling up after the 2017 Presidents Cup, when

Woods served as an assistant to Stricker. With encouragement from the other assistants, it was Tiger—still recovering from back surgery—that formally pitched the idea to PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan.

Woods was told there was nothing in the bylaws that prevented him from serving as a player-captain, but the conversation changed in the closing stages of Tiger’s 2018 comeback, when he was made a captain’s pick for the Ryder Cup team two weeks before his victory at the Tour Championship.

Dolphins pull off miracle play to stun Patriots



MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

—Kenyan Drake ran the last 52 yards as the Miami Dolphins scored on a pass and double lateral on the wild 69-yard final play Sunday to beat the New England Patriots 34-33.

It was the longest touchdown to win a game with no time remaining since the 1970 merger.

The Patriots were 16 seconds from clinching their 10th consecutive AFC East title when the Dolphins pulled off their stunner. Ryan Tannehill threw a 14-yard pass to Kenny Stills, who lateraled to DeVante Parker, who quickly lateraled to Drake. He found a seam and beat two Patriots to the corner of the end zone—defensive back J.C. Jackson and tight end Rob Gronkowski, who was on the field as part of New England's prevent defense.

The Dolphins' bench emptied as teammates mobbed Drake. Coach Adam Gase said his team had been practicing the play all year for such a situation.

"Those guys executed it as well as you could," Gase said. "When you practice it, you don't really know how it's going to turn out. Kenyan realized he had a lane and took it."

Tom Brady threw for 358 yards and three scores, but the stunned Patriots (9-4) lost in Miami for the fifth time in their past six visits. The Dolphins (7-6) came from behind five times to help their slim wild-card chances.

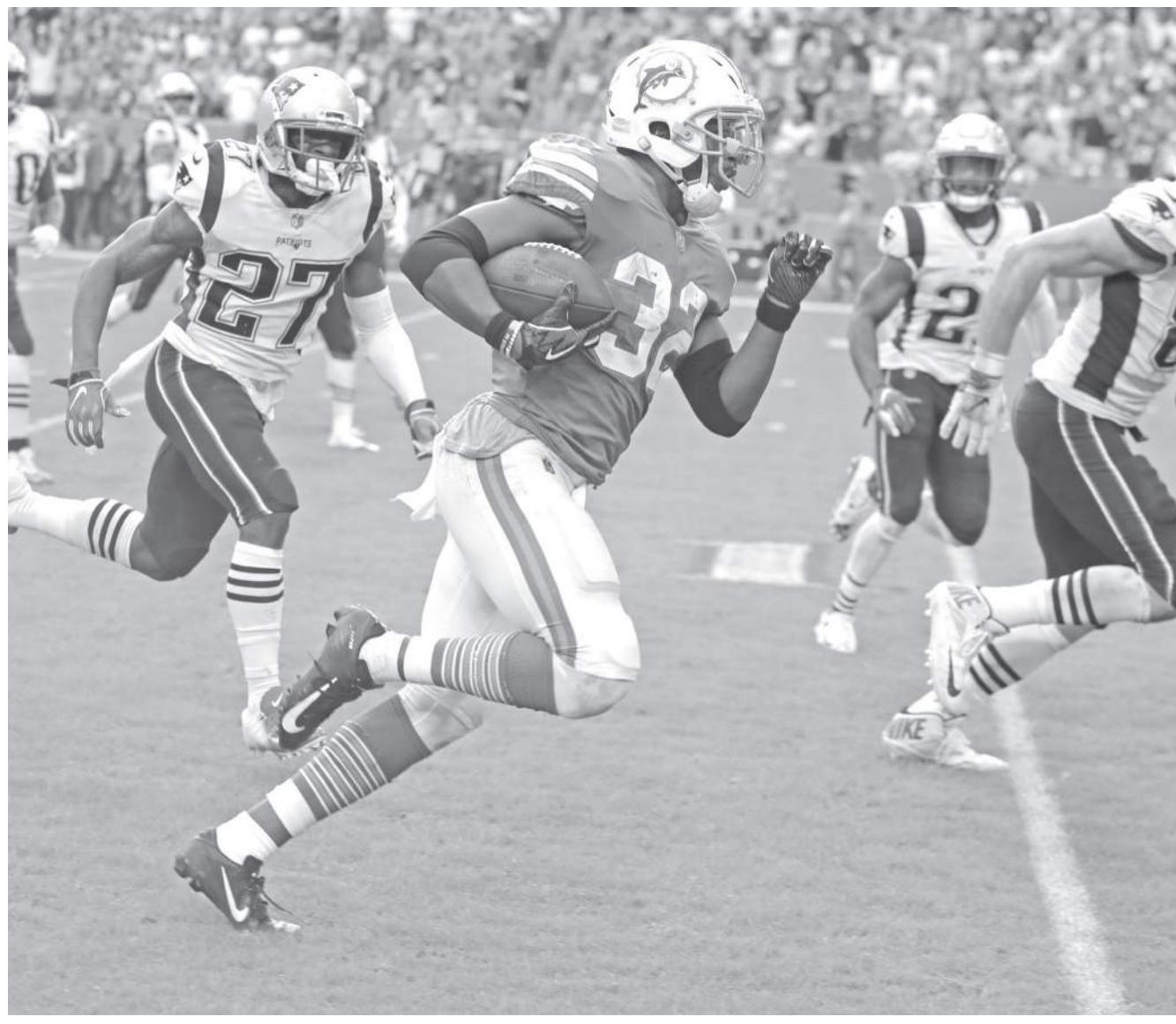
The Patriots' Stephen Gostkowski missed an extra point for the first time in 38 tries this season early in the game, and he also missed a 42-yard field goal try. But his 32-yarder to cap a 55-yard drive put the Patriots ahead 30-28 with 6:45 left.

Coach Bill Belichick opted to have Gostkowski kick a 22-yarder in the closing seconds rather than pin the Dolphins near their goal line. Instead, they returned the ensuing kickoff to the 31—and on the next play pulled off a miracle.

Chiefs 27, Ravens 24, OT

In Kansas City, Harrison Butker atoned for a 43-yard miss as time expired with a 36-yard field goal in overtime, and the Chiefs stopped the Ravens on fourth down to clinch a playoff spot.

The Chiefs (10-2) twice converted on fourth down before Patrick Mahomes threw a tying touchdown pass to Damien Williams with 53 seconds left. Moments later, Justin Houston strip-sacked Lamar Jackson to give Butker



Miami Dolphins running back Kenyan Drake (32) runs for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, in Miami Gardens, Fla. The Dolphins defeated the Patriots, 34-33.

a chance to win the game for Kansas City in regulation.

He missed that one. He didn't miss his second chance.

The Ravens (7-6) marched across midfield as they tried to answer in overtime, but Ronnie Stanley's holding penalty put them in a bind. Jackson was sacked by Houston and Dee Ford—and wound up leaving the game—and Robert Griffin III threw two incompletions to end it.

Mahomes threw for 377 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. Tyreek Hill caught eight passes for 139 yards, including three in overtime to set up the eventual winning field goal.

Jackson threw for 147 yards and two touchdowns for the Ravens, who had never lost in three trips to Arrowhead Stadium. Jackson also had 71 yards rushing in his fourth start in place of Joe Flacco.

Saints 28, Buccaneers 14

In Tampa, Drew Brees threw for one touchdown and ran another to help the Saints rally from an 11-point halftime deficit to clinch their second straight NFC South title.

Brees shrugged off a pair of turnovers to throw a 1-yard TD pass to Zach Line, then scored on a 1-yard sneak as the Saints (11-2) avenged a season-opening loss to the Bucs (5-8) and

also rebounded from a defeat last week at Dallas.

New Orleans' defense did its part after allowing two first-half TDs, too, sacking Jameis Winston four times and limiting the NFL's No. 1-ranked offense to 81 yards in the second half—most of that on the final drive.

Cowboyz 29, Eagles 23, OT

In Arlington, Dak Prescott threw his third touchdown pass to Amari Cooper on the first possession of overtime, and the Cowboys took a big step toward the NFC East title.

On third down, Rasul Douglas tipped the pass into the air, and Cooper grabbed it and had a clear path to the end zone from the Philadelphia 7. The Cowboys used almost all of the 10-minute overtime, scoring with 1:55 remaining.

By winning the third overtime game in the past four seasons at A&T Stadium between these division rivals, the Cowboys (8-5) won their fifth straight game and took a two-game lead over the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles (6-7) and Washington.

Raiders 23, Steelers 21

In Oakland, Derek Carr threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Zach Line, then scored on a 1-yard sneak as the Saints (11-2) avenged a season-opening loss to the Bucs (5-8) and

tempt on the final play.

Ben Roethlisberger returned from a rib injury to lead a go-ahead touchdown drive that Carr answered for the Raiders (3-10). Big Ben then connected on a 48-yard hook-and-lateral pass play that put Boswell in position for the tying kick. But he lost his footing and sent the kick into the line, sending the Steelers (7-5-1) to their third straight loss.

Chargers 26, Bengals 21

In Carson, Philip Rivers threw for 220 yards and Michael Badgley kicked four field goals, including a team-record 59-yarder. Rivers completed 19 of 29 and threw a touchdown in what was not one of the team's best games. The Chargers (10-3) had 160 yards of offense on their first two drives but had 121 the remainder of the game.

Austin Ekeler rushed for 66 yards on 15 carries with Melvin Gordon missing his second straight game due to a knee injury. Keenan Allen had five receptions for 78 yards. Joe Mixon had 111 yards on 26 carries and a touchdown for the Bengals (5-8), who have dropped five straight games. Jeff Driskel, making his second straight start since Andy Dalton's season-ending thumb injury, was 18 of 27 for 170 yards and a touchdown.

Chris Boswell had 111 yards on 26 carries and a touchdown for the Bengals (5-8), who have dropped five straight games. Jeff Driskel, making his second straight start since Andy Dalton's season-ending thumb injury, was 18 of 27 for 170 yards and a touchdown.

49ers 20, Broncos 14

In California, George Kittle caught an 85-yard touchdown pass on the way to 210 yards receiving and became the 49ers' first tight end to reach the 1,000-yard milestone.

Kittle finished just shy of Shannon Sharpe's NFL record by a tight end of 214 yards receiving, not having a catch nor as many chances in the second half. Kittle had seven receptions in all on nine targets.

Lions 17, Cardinals 3

In Arizona, Darius Slay returned an interception 67 yards for a touchdown and Detroit got its first win in Arizona since 1993.

Slay stepped in front of intended receiver Trent Sherfield, picked off Josh Rosen's pass and raced down the left sideline for the third-quarter score as the Lions (5-8) ended an eight-game losing streak in the desert.

Arizona (3-10) avoided being shut out with Zane Gonzalez's 22-yard field goal that cut the lead to 10-3 with 8:14 to play.

Colts 24, Texans 21

In Houston, Andrew Luck threw for 399 yards and two touchdowns and T.Y. Hilton had 199 receiving yards. The Colts (7-6) snapped a nine-game winning streak by the

Texans (9-4), trimming Houston's lead over the AFC South to two games with three remaining.

Hilton entered the game as the all-time leader in receiving yards per game at NRG Stadium with 122.3 yards and finished just shy of 200 yards on nine catches on 12 targets.

Browns 26, Panthers 20

In Cleveland, Baker Mayfield outplayed Cam Newton, Jarvis Landry caught a touchdown pass and ran for another score and the Browns damaged Carolina's playoff hopes. The Panthers dropped their fifth straight.

Mayfield bravely threw a 51-yard TD pass into traffic to Landry, who had a 3-yard scoring run and added a long run—on a similar call—early in the fourth quarter to set up a go-ahead touchdown.

Packers 34, Falcons 20

In Green Bay, Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes and set an NFL record for interception-free football, and the Packers won their first game under interim head coach Joe Philbin.

Aaron Jones ran for a 29-yard score in the third quarter. The defense limited quarterback Matt Ryan after a game-opening touchdown drive to hand Atlanta its fifth straight loss and guarantee the Falcons a losing record for the first time since 2014.

Giants 40, Redskins 16

In Landover, Saquon Barkley rushed for 170 yards, including a 78-yard touchdown to surpass 1,000 for the season, and Eli Manning threw for three scores to effectively end Washington's already-slim playoff hopes.

Barkley gashed the Redskins' defense for 12.1 yards a carry to become the first Giants rookie to break 1,000, and set a single-season franchise rookie record with his 13th touchdown. The second overall pick also had four catches for 27 yards against a Washington defense that's a shell of the unit that led the league early in the season.

Jets 27, Bills 23

In New York, Sam Darnold one-upped fellow rookie Josh Allen, rallying the Jets.

Elijah McGuire scored on a fourth-and-goal run from the 1 with 1:17 remaining to cap a drive during which Darnold completed three of five passes for 52 yards. The rookie quarterback particularly showed off his deft touch on a 37-yard pass to Robby Anderson, who made an over-the-shoulder catch up the right sideline.

US draws Sweden again for 2019 Women's World Cup

PARIS (AP)—U.S. national coach Jill Ellis was asked before the Women's World Cup draw whether she thought her team would be grouped with Sweden for the fifth straight time.

"Oh, we will," Ellis laughed, recalling her reply.

Turned out she was right.

The defending champion Americans were grouped—again—with Sweden for next summer's showcase tournament in France. The draw to set the group stage for the 24 teams was held Saturday at a gala event in Paris amid a backdrop of unrest in the country.

Host France will open the World Cup on June 7 against South Korea in Paris.

The Americans defeated Japan 5-2—highlighted by Carli Lloyd's hat trick—in Canada in 2015. The U.S. has played in every World Cup since the competition started in 1991, winning the inaugural event and also in 1999.

The No. 1-ranked U.S. team landed in the same group with Sweden for the sixth time overall. Also in Group F are Thailand and Chile, which is making its World Cup debut.

The U.S. will open the tournament against Thailand in Reims on June 11. Sweden,



ranked No. 9, will face the U.S. on June 20 in Le Havre—the final group match for both.

"I know about the history, tough games during many years," said Sweden coach Peter Gerhardsson, who took over the team after Pia Sundhage's retirement in 2017. "We feel that we have a chance and that's the most

important thing."

The game will be a rematch of the Olympic quarterfinal in Brazil, where Sweden advanced on penalties after a 1-1 draw. Afterward, U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo called the Swedes "cowards" for bunkering on defense.

"It's a good draw for us," said Ellis, who attended the

In this June 12, 2015 file, Sweden goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl (1) saves the header from United States' Alex Morgan (13) as Sweden's Amanda Ilestedt (14) defends during the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer game action in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

draw. "It pits us against a couple of teams we're not that familiar with, which I like, and then obviously Sweden. I like having Sweden in the third game because it allows us to settle into the tournament."

The pots for the draw were based on the world ranking, except that No. 3 France, as host, led the first pot, followed by the U.S., Germany, England, Canada and Australia. The updated FIFA rankings were released Friday.

France has gone 7-1-2 this year, the loss coming against England in the United States. This will be the fourth World Cup for Les Bleues, who landed in a group with South Korea, Norway and Nigeria.

Didier Deschamps, who coached the French men to victory in the World Cup in Russia five months ago, was greeted with a roar Saturday when he walked on the stage.

He said he's confident in Les Bleues under coach Corinne Diacre.

"I don't have advice to give to Corinne, she knows women's football far better than me," he said. "We've spoken several times. She knows that I'm at her disposal. Obviously, there's a lot of expectation from the fans and media. Corinne and her staff know what awaits, but that shouldn't be a negative thing."

England, ranked No. 4, was grouped with No. 8 Japan, No. 20 Scotland and No. 36 Argentina. With an average ranking of No. 17 it is statistically the toughest group. England was the surprise third-place finisher in Canada and has been on the rise the past several years.

The squad is coached by Phil Neville, a former Manchester United and England defender who played in three European Championships. The Lionesses have gone 7-2-3 under Neville this year.

Also drawing a tough group was No. 6 Australia, which is joined by No. 10 Brazil and superstar Marta, who will be playing in her fifth World Cup. Australia defeated Brazil 1-0 in the Round of 16 in Canada.

It will be the seventh overall World Cup for the Matildas, who went 7-4-6 this year.

"The first immediate instinct is: It wouldn't be a major football tournament for the Matildas unless we had to play Brazil—2007, 2011,



2015 and now 2019, and the Olympics we've crossed with Brazil," coach Allen Stajcic said. "So very exciting to be playing them again."

The U.S. went undefeated this year, finishing 18-0-2, including a 2-0 victory over Canada in the final of the CONCACAF qualifying tournament. The team's unbeaten streak is at 28 games, dating to a 1-0 loss to Australia in the 2017 Tournament of Nations.

Lloyd was asked at the draw if she were confident the U.S. can win again.

"Pretty confident, I must say," she said. "This squad is as talented as can be, we've got the depth and a great coaching staff in place."

The draw was held at La Seine Musicale, a dome-shaped concert hall perched over the river Seine on the outskirts of Paris and not to be affected by the anti-government demonstrations. Tear gas filled central Paris, with riot police fighting to contain thousands of yellow-vested protesters.

The groups that will play next year in France:

Group A: France, South Korea, Norway, Nigeria.

Group B: Germany, China, Spain, South Africa.

Group C: Australia, Italy, Brazil, Jamaica.

Group D: England, Scotland, Argentina, Japan.

Group E: Canada, Cameroon, New Zealand, Netherlands.

Group F: United States, Thailand, Chile, Sweden.

Bucks hold on to beat Raptors anew



TORONTO (AP)—Malcolm Brogdon hit tying and go-ahead 3-pointers in the final 67 seconds and the Milwaukee Bucks held on to beat the Toronto Raptors 104-99 on Sunday night.

Brogdon scored 18 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 19 points and matched a season high with 19 rebounds, and Brook Lopez had 19 points for the Bucks, the first team to beat Toronto twice this season.

Serge Ibaka scored 22 points and Kawhi Leonard had 20 for the Raptors, who have lost two straight, the second time this season they've suffered consecutive defeats. Toronto, which lost 106-105 at Brooklyn on Friday, dropped

three straight from Nov. 12 to 16, losing at home to New Orleans and Detroit before an overtime defeat at Boston.

Fred VanVleet scored 19 points and Pascal Siakam had 17 for the Raptors, whose 21-7 record is best in the NBA.

Toronto's Kyle Lowry shot 0 for 5 and didn't score for the first time this season. Lowry led the Raptors with seven assists.

Pelicans 116, Pistons 108

In Detroit, Jrue Holiday scored 37 points and Julius Randle added 28 as New Orleans dealt Detroit its fourth straight loss.

Pelicans star Anthony Davis left with a right hip injury after a first-quarter collision

with Blake Griffin. Davis returned early in the third quarter, but finished with only six points—three before the injury. He also had five blocks and nine rebounds.

Griffin scored 35 points for Detroit, Andre Drummond had 23 points and 19 rebounds, and Langston Galloway added a season-best 24 off the bench.

Spurs 110, Jazz 97

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan had 26 points and eight rebounds and Rudy Gay added 23 points and 15 rebounds as San Antonio won its second straight after dropping four of five.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 20 points for the Spurs.

Donovan Mitchell scored 27 points, all in the second

half, and Ricky Rubio added 26 for the Jazz. Rudy Gobert was the only other player in double figures, with 12 points, as Utah had its two-game winning streak halted.

Hornets 119, Knicks 107

In New York, Kemba Walker scored 25 points and Jeremy Lamb added 19 to lead Charlotte past New York.

Tony Parker scored 16 points, Marvin Williams had 13 and Cody Zeller finished with 12 as Charlotte led by as many as 28 points in a game it never trailed.

Knicks rookie Kevin Knox tied a season high with 26 points and set a career high with 15 rebounds, while Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points.

nament (girls U16), while her younger sister is heading to New Zealand next month for a similar junior competition. Schorr, who also saw action in several ITF Juniors Circuit events this year, is going to Australia later this month for a series of U18 tournaments. Woo, early this month, was in the Land Down Under for both the individual and team events in the 2018 14/U Australian Championships or better known as December Showdown.

"We are trying to secure a grant from ITF for Colin so he can work on his goal of making it to the Top 200 next

year," Race said. As for the entire CNMI Junior National Team, for the nth time it dominated the North Pacific Regional Championships held in Guam in June and nearly earned a 3-peat in the Nations Cup in the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji when the Commonwealth crew finished runner-up to powerhouse Tahiti.

"We have a lot of success this year and this should encourage us to remain committed with the program," Race said.

who are given the opportunity to compete in ITF Juniors and other off-island tournaments and this speaks a lot about our program," Race said.

The NMITA official also mentioned Colin Sinclair and Isabel Heras with the former joining the ITF Pro Circuit and the latter having a strong debut in the NCAA Division II with the Dixie State University.

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Meanwhile, Sitchon is eyeing three races next year. First up for him is the 30th Tagaman Triathlon on March 30 and then the Guam Marathon on April 14. He is also hoping to compete in the Korea/Gurye Full Ironman in September.

Meanwhile, matches in the girls division will resume today with GCA hosting MCS JV at 3:30pm and ACS facing SIS 2 at the Torchbearers' court in Middle Road also at 3:30pm. Over at the Mt. Carmel grass court in Chalan Kanoa, MCS will welcome SIS 1 at 4:30pm. Before the girls game, MCS boys team will be going toe-to-toe with SIS at 3:30pm.

GUAM

From Page 28

Mark John Lexer Galedo ruled the 2018 edition of Tour of Guam after clocking in at 2:54:52.59, more than 15 minutes ahead of Guam's Dan Aponik (3:11:48.61). In the women's division, Guam's Laura Nadeau was the top finisher after checking in at 3:12:40.01, while former Saipan resident Mieko Carey submitted 3:38:47.97 to place second.

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NMI

From Page 28

Coume Kaga, and Jimin Woo are just some of the CNMI junior players who have been representing the Commonwealth in competitions outside Saipan.

Carol has been a regular fixture in the ITF Juniors Circuit this year, while her brother Sean just earned a runner-up finish (doubles) in the Vanuatu Junior Regional Championship 2018. Conatsu also made it to the finals of Vanuatu tour-

Hope For Tomorrow Beach Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Bump's Dylan Mister tries to prevent the ball from dropping during their co-ed U14 division title game against the MCS Knights in the Hope For Tomorrow Yutu Relief Fundraiser Beach Volleyball Tournament held early this month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.



Dr. Pepper's A.J. Hudkins serves to The Better Team during the co-ed U18 division finals.



Dr. Pepper's Sunjoon Tenorio bends for a return.



Jssakk's Steven Balakrishna taps the ball over the net.



Jam's Alex Park eyes the ball.



The MCS Knights' Richard Steele serves to The Bump.



The Bump's Kat Saures, left, battles MCS Knights' Richard Steele in the net.



Top MLB free agents, more options left

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Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018

Work continues for NMI tennis



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Though Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association savors the success of its impressive program, the group is not the type that would rest on its laurels.

"We have to continue working hard. We have to be pretty consistent in developing our players. It's (program) is a cycle. We work on every age group, starting in the U10 mini tennis division, teaching them the basics. Then you work your way up, until you have

developed players that can compete in high-level and off-island tournaments and go back to finding more young players to train," NMITA official and CNMI national coach Jeff Race said.

Carol and Sean Lee, Robbie Schorr, Conatsu and

See NMI on Page 26

Podium finish for Sitchon in Tour of Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran Manny Sitchon debuted in the Tour of Guam and finished third in last Saturday's bike race.

The 60-year-old timed in at

4:51:58.15 in the 105-kilometer race that started and ended in Hagatna with riders passing through more than 10 villages in Guam. Sitchon finished third in the 60 and over age group and

received a medal during the awards presentation, joining Japan's Yoshio Isobe (4:04:55.97) and Guam's Gordon Paquette (4:09:20.11) in the podium.

Though Sitchon managed

to place in his age group, he rued at playing down the Tour of Guam course.

"I underestimated the Tour of Guam course. I used to hear stories that the Hell of Marianas has more difficult race course. Maybe yes, as HOM has more steeper climbs, but TOG has more mountain climbs to deal with—maybe more than double than the number of climbs at HOM," Sitchon said.

Because of the extra challenge in the Guam race, the sexagenarian said it was difficult navigating the course, especially the latter part of it.

See GUAM on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Manny Sitchon, 10th left, poses with finishers in last Saturday's Tour of Guam.

Two in a row for MCS; GCA, SIS 1 win

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mt. Carmel School made it back-to-back, while Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School 1 notched victories over their respective opponents in the girls division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association High School Volleyball League last Thursday.

Though their game kicked off late and MCS varsity team had a shorthanded roster, the Lady Knights still managed to beat Agape Christian School, 0-25, 25-21, 15-12. Agape took the lopsided win in the opening set, as it was awarded the victory via forfeiture after MCS failed to have six players available at the start of the match. After the Lady Knights' sixth player arrived, the opposing teams mutually agreed

to start keeping score in the second set.

After the Lady Knights faced a setback in the opening set, they persevered and prevailed in the final two for the squad's 2-0 record.

Despite losing their season-debut game, ACS head coach Ana Arellano gleaned valuable insight from observing how her squad played. Moving forward, Arellano said she will be working more on helping her team improve their serving, receiving, and focus in the game.

"We need to work on being consistent with serving and receiving. Also, they need to focus and always keep their eye on the ball as it comes across the net," Arellano said.

In other results last Thursday, the Lady Eagles made their season debut and squashed SIS 2 in two sets,

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Mt. Carmel School's varsity team's Louisa Han unloads an overhand serve during their season-debut game in the CCOP-SA high school volleyball league against MCS junior varsity last week at the MCS court.